

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



OUTSTANDING LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HONORED WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1 AT ENCINITAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S RISING STAR OF THE MONTH PROGRAM

Encinitas, Calif. – November 7, 2023 --The Encinitas Chamber of Commerce held its third Rising Star of the Month event for the 2023-24 school year Wednesday, November 1, 2023. The Chamber has partnered with MiraCosta College's San Elijo campus this school year who hosts and sponsors the monthly breakfasts honoring exceptional seniors from the local high schools in the San Dieguito Union High School District.

The honorary program recognizes high school students who have demonstrated character, integrity, love of learning and involvement in school and community, and/or have overcome challenging life circumstances without compromising their education. Each month during the school year, additional San Dieguito Union High School students will be celebrated at a recognition breakfast. All Rising Star students will have the opportunity to apply for a scholarship which will be awarded in May, 2024 at the Encinitas Chamber's annual Salute to Education event.

The Encinitas Chamber's Rising Stars honored were Eric Li from Canyon Crest Academy, Winston Bergseid from La Costa Canyon High School, Garrett Delorme from San Dieguito High School Academy, Perttu Kaislasaari from Sunset High School and Nafis Aboonour from Torrey Pines High School. Their families and local city officials were in attendance, including Shannon Bradley: representing Congressman Levin, Matt Rubel: representing Senator Blakespear, Robson Winter: representing Assemblymember Tasha Boerner, San Diego County Sherriff Captain Christopher Lawrence, Encinitas Chamber of Commerce CEO Sherry Yardley, Encinitas Chamber of Commerce Board members and San Dieguito Union High School principals and district officials were also in attendance.

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MiraCosta College is the Rising Star of the Month Event and Breakfast Sponsor for Rising Star. Scholarship Donors are California Coast Credit Union, EDCO, The Cottage Encinitas, Encinitas Historical Society and the Encinitas Rotary Club. Gift donors include Gelato 101 Encinitas, The Baked Bear, Sambazon, Ki's Restaurant, Broad Street Dough Co., Chick-fil-A, Cox Communications, Raising Cane's and the Community Resource Center (CRC). Go to <https://encinitaschamber.com/events/rising-star/> for more information on how you can donate and be a part of enriching and uplifting our community.

MEET THE STUDENTS:

Canyon Crest Academy – Eric Li

“Eric is an extremely hard-working and bright student,” said Principal Brett Killeen. “He balances his academics with his leadership role in ASB. He makes students feel welcomed and included in all ASB activities. He always has a smile and welcomes students to our campus.”

La Costa Canyon High School – Winston Bergseid

“Winston Bergseid is a creative, intelligent, and kind young man,” said Principal Justin Conn. “He is known throughout our campus community for excelling in the classroom, having failed to earn anything but an A in any of his rigorous LCC coursework. He is also heavily involved in our fantastic Theater Company and is currently choreographing our upcoming production of ‘A Monster Calls’.”

San Dieguito Academy – Garrett Delorme

“Garrett is an Executive Officer in SDA’s ASB class and has been such a dynamic leader and role model in our class,” said Principal Cara Dolnik. “As he chairs big events, he shows his leadership skills by ensuring all members of the committee feel they are playing an important role in contributing to school spirit and success. Garrett also is a thespian in our robust Theater program and is an outstanding Mustang soccer player.”

Sunset High School – Perttu Kaislasaari

“Perttu has been a star at Sunset since the day he first set foot on campus,” said Principal Rick Ayala. “He consistently produces high-quality work and he has put himself in a position to graduate more than a year early with an outstanding GPA. On top of that, Perttu is one of the most polite, respectful, and engaging students we’ve ever had. There is no doubt that Perttu is well on his way to even bigger and better things in life and his star will only continue to grow brighter.”

Torrey Pines High School – Nafis Aboonour

“Nafis Aboonour is kind, tenacious, and open-minded,” said Principal Rob Coppo. “He is curious to learn about our world, passionate about social justice, and dedicated to making TPHS more inclusive. Nafis is a founding member of the TP Middle Eastern Union (MEU), and is active in the Biomimicry, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Club (BIE), theater, and Peer Tutoring. Nafis speaks up in the face of injustice, and collaborates with peers and staff to find solutions to issues facing our campus community.”

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PHOTO CAPTION: L to R: Matt Rubel representing Senator Catherine Blakespear’s office, Nafis Aboonour, Torrey Pines High School, Perttu Kaislasaari, Sunset High School, Garrett Delorme, San Dieguito High School Academy, Winston Bergseid, La Costa Canyon High School and Eric Li, Canyon Crest Academy

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