



# ROP STUDENTS OF EXCELLENCE

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*Career Technical Education  
/ ROP Awards*

MAY 10, 2022



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
Office of Education

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Lynn Mackey, Superintendent of Schools

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
OFFICE OF EDUCATION**

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## **PROGRAM**

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Hilary Dito

Director, College and Career Readiness

### **Welcome from Contra Costa County Board of Education**

Sarah G. Butler, President

### **Partners**

**Anita Miller, Chevron**

Advisory, Education and Corporate Programs

**Aimee Henry, Phillips 66**

Director, Community Relations

**Nasly Buitrago-Fleming**

Veranda Branch Manager

**Galen Dobbins, Travis Credit Union**

Government Affairs Officer

### **Student Awards Presented by:**

Jeff Brauning, CCR Coordinator

Dan Hanel, CCR Coordinator

Nicholas Morgan, K12 SWP Coordinator

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### **Adjourn**



## XAYLEE MINCHEY

*Heritage High School • 12th Grade*

ROP Advanced Sports Medicine | Teacher: Ms. Tolvtvar

Xaylee's Advanced Sports Medicine teacher describes her as hard-working, motivated, and organized. Just this year she has put in over 130 hours volunteering to assist the school's athletic trainer. Xaylee credits her two years of ROP Sports Medicine for providing the knowledge and experience to help her achieve her career goal as a physician's assistant, specializing in cardiac or renal care.



## MIHIR ARYA

*California High School • 11th Grade*

ROP AP Computer Science | Teacher: Ms. Nguyen

Mihir's long-term goal is to use computer code to empower the underrepresented and marginalized: programming for social good. He helped organize a week of teaching coding to local elementary students, and when in lockdown he developed a program called DISH that could help generate recipes for people with limited ingredients. The technical and soft skills learned in ROP AP Computer Science A, along with Mihir's empathy and passion, have him well on his way to achieving his goal.



## YEMISI OBALADE

*Dozier-Libbey Medical High School • 12th Grade*

ROP Advanced Sports Medicine | Teacher: Ms. O'Leary

Described as polite, passionate, and prepared by his ROP Advanced Sports Medicine teacher, Yemisi's career goal changed after enrolling in the class. As an athletic trainer intern assisting the district's sports teams, Yemisi has learned to put into practice things you learn in the classroom. He will attend Arizona State University to study kinesiology on his way to becoming a professional athletic trainer or physical therapist.

## LAURENTIDYMAN

*Clayton Valley Charter High School • 11th Grade*

Honors: ROP Civil Engineering and Architecture | Teacher: Ms. Castillo

Lauren is the epitome of an accomplished STEAM student, blending her skills in science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics. Her experience in ROP Civil Engineering and Architecture pushed her to think outside the box and opened windows into potential career options. She is grateful for her instructor's guidance as she plans to pursue a career related to oceanic engineering.



## RICHA PRABHAKAR

*California High School • 12th Grade*

ROP Play Production | Teacher: Ms. Woods

Having spent multiple years in ROP Play Production, Richa has explored her creativity and become a more confident leader. Her experience as stage manager for the school's performances required her to coordinate numerous activities before and during each show. Richa's teacher cites her organizational skills and willingness to 'get dirty' with her success in the role. She plans to study communication following high school graduation.



## NOAH GIBSON

*Deer Valley High School • 12th Grade*

ROP Web Page Design | Teacher: Mr. Greub

Noah's ROP Web Design class not only let him dabble with technology and coding, it also allowed him to express his creativity. He is self-directed, goal-oriented, and has excellent analytical skills. Noah's ROP course has helped him develop both the technical skills and soft skills he knows he'll need as he pursues a career in the tech field.







## EMILIANO SALCEDO

*Antioch High School • 12th Grade*

ROP Social, Web, Media Programming and Design | Teacher: Mr. McCutcheon

It is not just Emiliano's talent, but his spirit and determination that make him stand out in his ROP Social Media and Web Design class. He was the lead videographer during the school's recorded and live-streamed athletic and graduation events, and he currently is an intern at Tikiman radio where he produces his own show - High School Jukebox. Emiliano plans to pursue a career in the entertainment field in the future.



## MARIA VIRALHADAS

*Heritage High School • 11th Grade*

ROP Advanced Video Production | Teacher: Mr. Guardado

Born in Portugal with her early childhood in South Africa, Maria's route to ROP Advanced Video Productions was long. The opportunity to learn industry-standard software and professional-grade cinematic cameras has opened her eyes to the world of videography. She was named Video Productions club president as a junior and has led the production of school promos, live athletic events, and the school's video yearbook YouTube channel. Maria's passion is to tell people's stories through her technical skills and creativity, which she'll pursue in the future as a professional videographer/editor.



## GIA MONTICELLO

*Freedom High School • 12th Grade*

ROP Careers with Children | Teacher: Ms. Marple

ROP Careers with Children has opened Gia's eyes to her passion for teaching. She is a leader during class and with her preschool teaching team. She is an excellent organizer and communicator and has helped the Little Falcons Preschool club carry out a Parent Date Night, toy sanitizing sessions, and booths at the local festivals. She cares deeply about children and will pursue nursing and early childhood education at CSU Chico.

## AXEL RAMIREZ

*Pittsburg High School • 12th Grade*

ROP Advanced Audio Production | Teacher: Mr. Reyes

Prior to enrolling in his school's two-year course sequence ending in ROP Advanced Audio Production, Axel had no idea what he wanted to do after graduation. Learning the tools and techniques during the class helped him find a career direction. His teacher states that Axel's creativity, talent, and hard-work will ensure his future success as he attends college to study audio engineering.



## SIMRAN SAINI

*California High School • 12th Grade*

ROP Sports Medicine | Teacher: Mr. Bretzing

For Simi's entire life, she has wanted to be a doctor. As a leader in her sports medicine class, she has volunteered for the student-trainer program. An athlete herself, she has trained, taped, iced and helped rehabilitate numerous fellow athletes at her school. She plans to take her extensive knowledge of sports medicine to college, where she plans to one day be a trainer in the NFL.



## SHUICHI ALEX TENDILLA

*Pittsburg High School • 12th Grade*

ROP Graphic Design | Teacher: Ms. Narayan

Shuichi Alex has worked tirelessly to master many media of art in his quest to become an artist. He has developed both his artistic skills and character, including as a member of his school's Gay-Straight Alliance and other clubs, and as an elementary school volunteer. He plans to continue his journey as an artist at Los Medanos College.





## KYLIE JANSSE PERALTA

*Heritage High School • 12th Grade*

ROP Mock Trials & Law Enforcement Careers | Teacher: Mr. Carr

Kylie is a leader in her Law, Government, Public Service, and Mock Trial courses, where she has honed her speaking skills and prosecuted criminal cases, including a murder by rattlesnake. She has also competed and served as president of the speech and debate club, and will continue with a career in law and government where she will be an advocate for truth and justice.



## NICHOLAS HARVEY

*California High School • 12th Grade*

ROP Journalism | Teacher: Mr. Barr

Nicholas has distinguished himself as editor-in-chief of the student newspaper, The Californian, including for award-winning reporting on issues such as the return to in-person classes and the school resource officer program. His reporting has also led him to a research internship with the City of San Ramon, as well as creation of an oral history project in his community, which he plans to continue after graduation.



## DARIUS MEMBRES

*Pittsburg High School • 12th Grade*

ROP Game Design | Teacher: Ms. Narayan

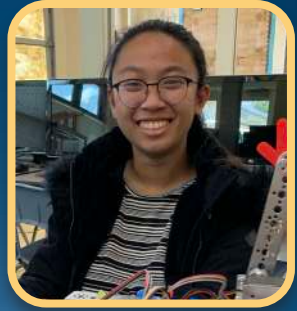
Darius is a tireless worker, having mastered many skills and softwares in graphic design and game design. He has created 3D animations, characters in Pixel Art, models, simulations, and video game characters. He uses his skills to inspire others and spread positivity. Darius plans to use them in his career in game and software design.



## HALEY LE

*Heritage High School • 12th Grade*  
ROP Robotics Engineering Tech | Teacher: Mr. Pardi

In her Robotics Engineering class, Haley has been integral to a team building a grabber robot and using it to compete, having designed and printed parts using CADD, and programmed an arduino controller. She is also an intern at John Muir hospital with a biomedical engineer, and plans to use her skills learned in her robotics class in a career in biomedical engineering designing prosthetics.



## GEMMARUBY MACIEL

*Freedom High School • 12th Grade*  
ROP Beginning Graphic Design | Teacher: Ms. Butler

Gemmaruby has been instrumental in her school creating an award-winning yearbook, even during a Covid-impacted school year, by working long hours to perfect the content. As part of her graphic design class she has created design briefs, brand identities and logos for local businesses, and has been involved with multiple community groups and cultural organizations, and is preparing for college.



## BENJAMIN MARISCAL

*Freedom High School • 12th Grade*  
ROP AP Environmental Science | Teacher: Mr. Sierra

Benjamin has helped restart his school's environmental club and served as its president, leading projects such as restarting the school's garden and community clean-up days. He has excelled in his environmental science class because of his dedication to the Earth, and plans to study marine biology in college because of his love of the ocean and commitment to a more sustainable future.





## DANNY AVALOS

*Freedom High School • 12th Grade*

ROP Advanced Video Production | Teacher: Mr. Sierra

Danny has loved movies his entire life. He has a long-time YouTube channel where he broadcasts films he has made, including music videos and videos about his classmates making music videos. After his two video production classes, he is now working on a script for a film trilogy he plans to make. He now hopes to climb the film industry ladder to become a director.



## MELANIE SANDOVAL

*Antioch High School • 11th Grade*

ROP Careers in Teaching | Teacher: Ms. Quiñones

Melanie has a passion for teaching. She has taken over teaching her Careers in Teaching class when the teacher has been out, learned teaching skills she has used to mentor others, and created lessons for English Language Learners. She loves leading and helping others, and will bring her skills to her future career as an English teacher.



## SAHN CANNON

*Heritage High School • 12th Grade*

ROP Digital Recording Studio | Teacher: Mr. Carreon

Sahn is a skilled performer with a great ear for music. In addition to his recording arts class, he is active in jazz band and drumline, and also works as an audio engineer for a company mixing, producing, and recording music. He enjoys the exhilaration of performing music for an audience, and plans to continue his career in the music industry and audio engineering.

## MAHIKA ARYA

*Dougherty Valley High School • 12th Grade*

ROP Biological Laboratory Science and Research | Teacher: Ms. Huang

Mahika realized this past year, her ROP course has made her so much more confident in her ability to truly help all members of the community. She is very excited to carry these skills forward throughout college, her future career in research, and her desire to always keep learning. Mahika is an outstanding student with confidence and skill in a BioTech Lab that will serve her well in her future career goals.



## ALEX NGUYEN

*Deer Valley High School • 12th Grade*

ROP TV Production | Teacher: Mr. Olff

Mr. Olff says, "His music videos this year have become anthems for our class and he is a leader that everyone looks up to. I know that if we are in a tough situation, I can rely on Alex to help me out. Alex has grown as a storyteller, camera operator, and editor. His short films are always excellent and the episodes of the news he produces are always high quality." ROP TV Production has provided an outlet for Alex to express his skills set in film making whether it is YouTube videos or class projects his work is always exemplary.



## SACHI SAYAL

*Dougherty Valley High School • 12th Grade*

ROP XR for Social Good | Teacher: Ms. Davoudzadeh

Sachi wants to pursue Computer Science for the entertainment industry, wanting to use computers to create innovations. Sachi founded a non-profit called "Tech for Social Good San Ramon" where she designs websites for clubs in school and nonprofits that are usually outside of school. This experience taught her patience with people, how to focus on the tasks, and to think outside of the box to resolve issues. She also volunteers with an organization called Mrs. M's Virtual Education Academy where she tutors under-privileged kids in math and web design. This shows her commitment to not only computer science but to helping others.





## AADI GHAI

*Dougherty Valley High School • 11th Grade*

VS.net | Teacher: Ms. Davoudzadeh

ROP VS.Net has ignited his joy and passion for Computer Science. Solving complex world problems with code and working as a team to create solutions has focused his future career goal of working in Data Science. Aadi is an outstanding student with a curiosity and sense of humor that will serve him well in the future. His teacher was impressed with his work ethic and ability to problem solve.



## MATTHEW ROYSE

*Dozier Libbey Medical High School • 11th Grade*

ROP Emergency Medical Responder | Teacher: Ms. Medel

Matthew learned about the human body, public service, first aid, CPR, and public speaking in his ROP First Responders class. He also has now focused his future career plans to becoming a Trauma Nurse. Matthew has always wanted to serve and help people in his community and ROP has given him a path to meet his goals. His teacher said, Matthew from day 1 has demonstrated a high level of skill and leadership. He is an exemplary student and leader on campus.



## MCKINLEY NESTOR

*John Swett High School • 12th Grade*

ROP Multimedia | Teacher: Mr. Leslie

ROP Multimedia is a class that Mckinley looks forward to every morning. ROP inspires his creative nature and allows him to follow his passion in Concept Art. Mckinley has excelled in Adobe Photoshop and goes above and beyond in completing projects. His exceptional artistic talents did not go unnoticed by his teachers and peers. He always puts his talent to use by adding fantastic personal touches to his work.



## SOPHIA GLADKEVICH

*Albany High School • 12th Grade*

ROP Graphic Arts | Teacher: Mr. Castle

Sophia got into the ROP Graphic Design because of a scheduling conflict, but soon realized this class was just what she needed. ROP Graphic Design and ROP Engineering and Design motivated her to apply to Engineering schools and helped her get into her “dream” school. These classes transformed her passion for Design into future career plans. Mr. Castle says, “she has incredible design talent and passion for learning.”

Always engaged and ready to help, Sophia will no doubt someday be a leader in her future career.



## ZAK GILBERT

*Piedmont High School • 12th Grade*

ROP Culinary Arts | Teacher: Chef Kelley

Zach says, “My ROP Culinary Arts class has taught me many important life skills and has equipped me with culinary skills that will benefit me in the future no matter what career path I take.” Zach plans to attend the University of Oregon in the fall and someday open a Super Market. His teacher is proud of his growth and teamwork and commitment to help others.



## ALYSE GARCIA

*Las Tomas High School • 11th Grade*

ROP PLTW Human Body Systems | Teacher: Ms. Mooney, RN MN

“ROP has prepared me for my future in Medicine. Specifically ROP has guided my interest to pursue emergency medicine.” Her teacher says Alyse’s performance in the Human Body Systems class is impeccable. She goes far above and beyond what is assigned in class. She has demonstrated leadership and contributed to our very successful blood drive this year.







## KARIS CHOI

Monte Vista High School • 12th Grade

ROP Architectural Design 2 | Teacher: Mr. Johnson

Karis is an outstanding ROP Architectural Design student who plans to pursue her passion in college this fall. She hopes to help others through design and architecture to build a better world. Her teacher has no doubts that she will be a rising star in college and in her professional career.



## COLBIE ATLAS

Campolindo High School • 12th Grade

ROP Sports Medicine | Teacher: Mr. Albiento

Mr. Albiento says, "Colbie is an extraordinary young woman. I have seen many examples of her talents and have long been impressed by her diligence and work ethic. While proving her intelligence in school by demonstrating exemplary grades, Colbie volunteers as a member of the Broad Reach and Moon-dance organizations helping out with an orphanage in South Africa and schools in Saba. She has also volunteered over 100 hours with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty for Animals as a dog trainer." Colbie has a passion for sports and will play volleyball while attending The University of Massachusetts in the fall. Colbie's major will be Kinesiology, after attributing her Sports Medicine class to help her find her passion.



## NOLIN SEARLS

Alhambra High School • 12th Grade

ROP Construction Technology | Teacher: Mr. Sydlaske

Mr. Sydlaske says, "Nolin always gives his best effort and is never satisfied with just good work." Nolin placed 1st in the Skills USA Regional competition 2021, 2nd SkillsUSA California State Competition 2021, and placed 4th at the SkillsUSA National Leadership Conference 2021. This year Nolin placed 1st in the regional competition and is looking forward to the California and National competitions. Nolin plans to attend college in the fall and major in Civil Engineering. "Without my ROP class, I would not have found joy in working in this field."

## KRISTINA CZELUSNIAK

*Freedom High School • 11th Grade*

ROP Photography II | Teacher: Ms. Marlow-Rendler

Before class begins or the teacher even asks for help, Kristina is leading her Advanced Photography class by passing out cameras, checking equipment, and assisting other students, all before working on her own assignments. She gained real world experience by being the lead photographer of the graduation and spring photographs for FHS's Little Falcons Pre-K program. Along with schoolwork and cheering on five teams, she works in order to raise money to purchase her own camera equipment.

When Kristina graduates, she will attend college with the goal of becoming a professional photographer.



# SPECIAL RECOGNITION

*to students who were nominated*

## IVAN SHAPLI

**ADVANCED AUTO  
ENGINEERING**

*Alhambra High School*

*Teacher: Mr. Wheeler*

## ZOE PEREZ

**ADVANCED GRAPHIC DESIGN**

*Pittsburg High School*

*Teacher: Ms. Griffin*

## MARVIN JR. RESNGIT

**ADVANCED AUDIO  
PRODUCTION**

*Pittsburg High School*

*Teacher: Mr. Reyes*

## ERIC CATALANO

**INTRODUCTION  
TO ENGINEERING DESIGN**

*Clayton Valley Charter  
High School*

*Teacher: Ms. Castillo*



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