

2021/2022 CVSan Scholarship Winners:

CVSan is pleased to announce the winners of the 2021/22 CVSan Environmental Leader in Waste Reduction Scholarship: Levina La and Adam Fedorowicz!



Levina La has demonstrated her commitment to environmental leadership with her work at CVHS and in the community. While a student at CVHS she served as Co-Founder and President of Environmental Alliance Club, discussing and educating on environmental issues at CVHS since 2020. Levina was also a Sustainable Youth Intern at Earth Team at CVHS participating in monthly creek clean-ups and conducting home waste audits for their three bins project. Levina has also participated in Arroyo Creek Clean-Ups and the Beyond Terra Biodiversity Campaign. Levina's scholarship application essay describes what environmental stewardship means to her:

As stewards of the environment, we must hold ourselves accountable for the consequences of our actions and strive to build a community, in which everyone can make their contributions to pave a greener future.

Adam Fedorowicz has demonstrated his commitment to environmental leadership with his community work. He is currently a Cleaner and Greener Staff and a Gleaning Volunteer with ForestR while going to school at Castro Valley High School (CVHS). With the opportunity at ForestR, Adam has been working on litter pickup, land restoration and fruit harvests in our community and has recruited others to volunteer with him. Gleaning

has been an area of focus where Adam, his family, friends and other volunteers have gleaned thousands of pounds of fruit over the last few years and donated it to food pantries for people in need. Adam's scholarship application essay described what environmental stewardship means to him:

Environmental stewardship to me, means leading by example and encouraging others to recognize the benefits of nature and the need to take good care of the surrounding environment, including its restoration due to harmful human activity.

2020/2021 CVSan Scholarship Winners:

CVSan is pleased to announce the winners of the FY 2020/21 CVSan Environmental Leader in Waste Reduction Scholarship:



From left to right: Alina Huang, CVHS senior and Earth Team Intern; Oliver Zhang, CVHS senior and President of the Sunshine America Youth Organization.

Alina Huang has demonstrated her commitment to environmental leadership with community work. She served as an intern with Earth Team where she worked with water, soil, and air quality data to research environmental concepts and led discussions during Earth Team meetings and events. Huang is also the founder and president of the Animal Rights Club at CVHS. As an intern with Factory Farming Awareness Coalition, a nonprofit organization bringing attention to the environmental impacts of farming, Huang was recognized with the Animal Welfare Award for demonstrating determination and helping to advance the welfare of animals through education, research, and leadership. Huang's scholarship essay described what environmental stewardship means to her:

Environmental Stewardship to me is taking responsibility for the consequences that come from our actions and protecting the gifts that our home has given us. It is to show your efforts towards a greener future even with the smallest change.

Oliver Zhang has worked in the community to demonstrate his environmental leadership. He is the founder and president of Sunshine America Youth Organization where, since 2013, he has led 55 members on 47 Clean Hill Walks to pick up litter and restore 37,000 square feet of trails. As well, he has hosted environmental town halls and seminars. For his efforts with Sunshine America, Oliver has received the Gold Level President's Volunteer Service Award for the last four years. Zhang also led an Air Quality and Finance awareness campaign and trained 25 leaders by organizing weekly financial education seminars and college financial planning/IRS tax workshops. Zhang's scholarship essay explains what he believes environmental stewardship is:

As stewards we must seek to first preserve, and then restore our ailing planet so that future generations can likewise experience the true beauty of a fluttering sparrow in the frosty spring air, not just a lesser alternative. To protect Mother Nature, simply "good enough" is nowhere near enough.

2019/2020 CVSAn Scholarship Winners:

CVSan is pleased to announce the winners of the FY 2019/20 CVSAn Environmental Leader in Waste Reduction Scholarship: Ciara Bolt and Grace Boyd!



From left to right: Ciara Bolt, CVHS senior and Smart Environment Club President; Grace Boyd, CVHS senior and Leadership Environmental Commissioner

Bolt demonstrated her environmental leadership by serving as President of the Smart Environment Club at Castro Valley High School (CVHS), participating in educating students about recycling, organics, and reducing waste, as well as organizing recycling and organics containers around campus. Bolt was also an Intern with Factory Farming

Awareness Coalition, completing over 60 hours of service during the Summer of 2019 to receive certification giving presentations on the environmental impacts of farming. Bolt's scholarship essay described what environmental stewardship means to her:

To me, environmental stewardship is the responsibility for all to take part in the care and upkeep of our environment, whether that be in your backyard garden, a park that you frequent, or your own home. By leaving it better than you found it or striving to reduce your carbon footprint in any way that you can, any aspect of someone's life can be a means to practice environmental stewardship.

Boyd demonstrated her environmental leadership by serving as an Intern with Earth Team while going to CVHS where she works on a museum exhibit to promote sustainability regularly participating in clean-ups and restoration projects. Boyd was also an Environmental Commissioner at CVHS where she led the school's work on the Green Ribbon Program Application. Boyd's scholarship essay explains what she believes environmental stewardship is:

Environmental stewardship is nurturing the planet the same way it has nurtured me my entire life" and that "the motto If not me, then who? has guided me throughout my life, especially in my care for the environment. Leading by example is a powerful way to make a difference and inspire a society of conscious nature lovers.

2018/2019 CVSan Scholarship Winners:

CVSan is pleased to announce the winners of the FY 2018/19 CVSan Environmental Leader in Waste Reduction Scholarship: Alayna Chinn and Chelsea Chan!



From left to right: Daniel Akagi, Board President; Alayna Chinn, CVHS senior and Reconnect President; Chelsea Chan, CVHS senior and Smart Environment Club Co-President

The scholarship winners were invited to CVSan's Board of Directors meeting held on June 4, 2019. Environmental leadership was demonstrated by the scholarship winners

through active membership in the Smart Environment Club at Castro Valley High School as well as volunteer work with the CVSan Green Hearts Team.

Chinn demonstrated her environmental leadership by creating, Reconnect Inc., a 501©3 non-profit organization that refurbishes and donates computers for students without one at home. Chinn created this club while in middle school and again as a non-profit when she attended Castro Valley High School. While at Canyon Middle School, Chinn also was part of the group of students that started the food scrap recycling program at Canyon and helped improve waste diversion. Given that Chinn believes that “it is now more important than ever for people to step up to become environmental stewards” Chinn’s scholarship essay explains what she believes an environmental steward should do now:

At a minimum: reduce, reuse, recycle, and rot on a personal level, in our homes, schools, and businesses. We must challenge our friends and families to join us in our efforts. But that can’t be all. We can make choices for greener homes, greener cars, and ultimately, greener lives.

Chan demonstrated her environmental leadership by serving as Co-President of the Smart Environment Club at Castro Valley High School, participating in educating students about recycling, organics, and reducing waste, as well as organizing recycling and organics containers around campus and coordinating Earth Day Clean-up efforts for the CVHS Garden. Chan’s scholarship essay described what environmental stewardship means to her:

Environmental stewardship, to me, means recognizing and prioritizing this precious relationship we have with our caretaker, the Earth, and taking everyday action to defend her rights. It means realizing the great power we each have as individuals to create the change we wish to see in the world. Whether this be taking a few extra seconds to sort your waste, taking public transportation to work instead of driving, or planting a seed; every action, no matter how minute or unimpactful it may seem, has a lasting effect on our planet.

2017/2018 CVSan Scholarship Winners:

CVSan is pleased to announce the winners of the 2017/18 CVSan Environmental Leader in Waste Reduction Scholarship: Michelle Moreno and Mia Babasyan!



From left to right: Michelle Moreno, CVHS senior and Smart Environment Club Co-Vice President; Timothy McGowan, Board President; Mia Babasyan, CVHS senior and Smart Environment Club President

The scholarship winners were invited to CVSan's Board of Directors meeting on June 5, 2018. Environmental leadership was demonstrated by the scholarship winner through active membership in the Smart Environment Club at Castro Valley High School as well as volunteer work with the CVSan Green Hearts Team. Michelle Moreno described the motivation to become an environmental leader in her essay:

There is no time to wait. I used to think I had my whole life ahead of me to start [taking action], but life is only so long. I would constantly think why try to change the world, that's a job for adults. No, youth are the change, WE are the future, if not now when?

Mia Babasyan described the motivation to become an environmental leader in her essay:

Environmental stewardship, to me, means taking responsibility of our choices which affect the earth and our natural environment. It means recycling the plastic one buys or taking the bus to conserve on gas emissions. It means not only being aware of the problems our planet faces today but taking actions to improve personal eco-efficiency.

2016/2017 CVSan Scholarship Winner:

CVSan is pleased to announce the winner of the 2016/17 CVSan Environmental Leader in Waste Reduction Scholarship: Vianca Zavala!



From left to right: Melody Appleton, CVSan Board President; Vianca Zavala, CVHS senior; Roland Williams, CVSan General Manager

The scholarship winner was invited to CVSan's Board of Directors meeting on June 6, 2017. Environmental leadership was demonstrated by the scholarship winner through active membership in the Smart Environment Club at Castro Valley High School as well as volunteer work in the community. Vianca Zavala described the motivation to become an environmental leader in her essay:

The 4R's are vital because they decrease the amount of waste in our ecosystem, and offer creative ways to reuse items, recycle your waste, and create rich soil for your garden. Whether it's starting a community garden, a co-op an environmental club, or litter pick-ups, we set the example every day for those that do not know the importance of our land. Our earth's health is directly linked to our own well-being. This mindset has helped me grow as an individual, as it has given me the confidence to step out of my comfort zone and take steps to better our Earth.

2015/2016 CVSan Scholarship Winner:

CVSan is pleased to announce the winner of the 2015/16 CVSan Environmental Leader in Waste Reduction Scholarship: Emily Liang!



From left to right: Ralph Johnson, CVSan Board President; Emily Liang, CVHS senior

The scholarship winner was invited to CVSan's Board of Directors meeting on June 14, 2016. Environmental leadership was demonstrated by the scholarship winner through educating fellow students at Castro Valley High School. Emily Liang described the motivation to become an environmental leader in her essay:

If everyone would walk two more steps to the right or to the left and throw their lunch trays or unfinished food into the compost bins that are set out instead of the trash, we could prevent a lot of methane from entering our fragile atmosphere.

After [the waste audit], I started to become more aware of where I threw my trash, which led me to realize that I don't really know which bins some of my trash goes in. That made me wonder if this was the case for all my other classmates, because of this I started focusing on creating presentations that educated the Smart Energy Club members about the power of recycling and composting and how to correctly compost and recycle.

2014/2015 CVSan Scholarship Winner:

Please see below for the winner of the 2014/15 CVSan Environmental Leader in Waste Reduction Scholarship: Laila Birznieks!



*Pictured from left to right:
Dave Sadoff, CVS San Board President; Laila Birznieks, CVHS senior.*

The scholarship winner was invited to CVS San's Board of Directors meeting on June 2, 2015. Environmental leadership was demonstrated by the scholarship winner through participation in environmental clubs at Castro Valley High School. Laila described the motivation to become an environmental leader in her essay:

To me, environmental stewardship is the individual responsibility a person should take to respect the earth. This includes having a personal desire to go out of your way, no matter how small the action is, to care for our world. My experience in being the president of the Smart Energy Club has taught me that passion spreads quickly with enthusiasm...In Smart Energy Club, we know that education creates passion so we make it a point to have weekly presentations on environmental issues to educate students about environmental issues and what they can do to help solve them.

2013/2014 CVS San Scholarship Winner:

The two winners of the 2013/14 CVS San Environmental Leader in Waste Reduction Scholarship: Madeline Hahn and Suzanna Chak!



Pictured above, from left to right: Daniel Akagi, former CVSan Board President; Madeline Hahn, CVHS senior; Roland Williams, CVSan General Manager. Pictured below: Suzanna Chak, CVHS senior (middle); with Akagi (left) and Williams (right).



The two scholarship winners were invited to CVSan's Board of Directors meeting on May 6, 2014. Environmental leadership was demonstrated by the scholarship winners through participation in CVSan's Community Advisory Committee and participation in environmental clubs at Castro Valley High School. Madeline Hahn described the motivation to become an environmental leader in her essay:

I don't think I even realized how much of an impact each person has on our environment until I attended a Davis Street Transfer Station tour sponsored by the Castro Valley Sanitary District. We looked at compost, recycling, clothes, but the image that stuck with me the most was looking into the massive warehouse full of "trash". Things that weren't put into the recycling or compost. I then imagined almost half of the "trash" in there disappearing. It could've turned into mulch to grow plants or trees to grow paper. The possibilities are endless for each small act of environmental awareness.