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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**PETALUMA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION  
ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AWARDS \$263,934 TO THE CLASS OF 2024**

PETALUMA, CA, April 18, 2024—The Petaluma Educational Foundation (PEF) is honored to manage 88 scholarship funds for donors who provide the Foundation with clear criteria for selecting recipients. This year, PEF has awarded \$263,934 in 409 individual scholarships to 289 seniors graduating from Petaluma area high schools. This brings the total to \$4,848,989 in scholarships awarded by PEF since 1990.

The PEF scholarship program is open for all members of the Class of 2024 attending any of the seven Petaluma area high schools (Petaluma High, Casa Grande High, St. Vincent High, San Antonio High, Sonoma Mountain High, Carpe Diem High, Valley Oaks High, and Headwaters Academy) looking to pursue further education at 2-year colleges, 4-year colleges, and vocational training programs after graduation. Students applied online at [pefinfo.com](http://pefinfo.com) for various financial awards funded by PEF donors. On Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, the PEF scholarship awards reception held at Casa Grande High School's gym was attended by City of Petaluma Council members Brian Barnacle and Dennis Pocekay, school board members, students and their families, donors, and the board and staff of PEF.

PEF is proud to support engaging young minds and providing access for all students at all levels, across all subject areas, to be the best they can be. PEF helps these students by elevating their educational opportunities, resulting in innovative and creative minds that will lead our community as members of the future workforce. Just shy of \$9.4 million in financial support has been awarded through our grant and scholarship programs since the Foundation was founded. PEF receives no public funding. PEF raises funds from individuals, corporations, and foundations. In addition, PEF manages Alphabet Soup Thrift Stores with two locations in downtown Petaluma. All proceeds from Alphabet Soup benefit the mission of PEF.

For more information on how to make a financial pledge to PEF programs or to initiate an endowed fund to provide ongoing support for students attending our local schools today, tomorrow, and in the future, contact PEF Executive Director Maureen Highland or visit [pefinfo.com](http://pefinfo.com).

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*The mission of the Petaluma Educational Foundation (PEF) is to create impactful educational opportunities for all students in our community. We fund programs that promote critical thinking, creativity, student well-being, and lifelong learning. PEF is a registered non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.*