



Contact: Maureen Highland
Petaluma Educational Foundation
707-778-4632 / maureen@pefinfo.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**PETALUMA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AWARDS OVER \$348,000 TO THE CLASS OF 2026**

PETALUMA, CA, March 25, 2026—The Petaluma Educational Foundation (PEF) is honored to manage 100 scholarship funds for donors who provide the Foundation with clear criteria for selecting recipients. This year, PEF has awarded \$248,000 in 513 individual scholarships to 315 seniors graduating from Petaluma area high schools. This brings the total to \$5,497,606 in scholarships awarded by PEF since 1990.

The PEF scholarship program is open for all members of the Class of 2026 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 or trade programs after graduation. Students applied online at pefinfo.com for various financial awards funded by PEF donors. On Wednesday, March 25th, the PEF scholarship awards reception, held at Casa Grande High School's gym, was attended by the Mayor of Petaluma, Kevin McDonnell; school board members; students and their families; donors; and the board and staff of PEF.

PEF is proud to provide access for all students at all levels, across all subject areas, to be the best they can be. PEF helps these students by expanding their educational opportunities, resulting in innovative, creative minds who will lead our community as members of the future workforce. Over \$10.8 million in financial support has been awarded through our grant and scholarship programs since the Foundation's founding. 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. 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.

#####

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.