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FOUNDATION
PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES TO EXCEL

the Ford
Dimension

DREAM
BUILDERS
Helping Kern County Youth Excel

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NEWSLETTER OF THE FOUNDATION & FORD ALUMNI • 2026

Award-Winning Impact: Class of 2025 Recognized for Building a Better Bakersfield

One of the highlights of our summer was attending the 2025 Beautiful Bakersfield Awards, where the Ford Dream Builders program was nominated in the category of **"A Better Bakersfield."** It was an evening our students and I will remember for a long time.

This year's event was themed **"The Sound of Our City,"** celebrating Bakersfield's rich musical history and the people who make our community a special place. Throughout the evening, live music reminded everyone of the sounds that have put Bakersfield on the map. Just as inspiring were the stories of the individuals, organizations, businesses, and volunteers who dedicate their time to making our city stronger, kinder, and more beautiful.

Our nomination recognized the incredible work of the Class of 2025 and the positive impact they made throughout their year. Through community service projects, volunteer events, and meaningful partnerships with local organizations, our students invested countless hours serving others. Their willingness to step up, work hard, and represent Ford Dream Builders with integrity made this nomination especially meaningful.

I had the privilege of attending the event with seven members of the Class of 2025. It was a wonderful evening filled with great food, live entertainment, and the excitement of celebrating alongside so many people who care deeply about Bakersfield. Walking the red carpet together made the evening even more memorable!

The highlight of the night came when Ford Dream Builders was announced as the recipient of the **A Better Bakersfield Award!** I was honored to accept the award alongside Sophia Camou, Class of 2025, who

represented our students beautifully with a heartfelt acceptance speech. Afterward, we had the opportunity to participate in media interviews and share the story of our program and the impact our students are making throughout the community.

To our Class of 2025, thank you for proving that the most beautiful sound in Bakersfield is found in the lasting impact of people serving people. Congratulations on this well-deserved award. Your legacy will continue to inspire the classes that follow.

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Peggy Rivera

Peggy Rivera
Director of Student Leadership



2026 Dream Builders



Team "V.E.T.S."

Sponsored by Bank of the Sierra

In partnership with Honor Flight and Portrait of a Warrior Gallery, they interviewed veterans and created a documentary. They held a premier at St. John's Elementary School, bringing veterans and community members together to celebrate service and hear their stories firsthand. The team won Best All Around and received an additional \$250 to donate to a nonprofit.

\$500 donated to Honor Flight of Kern County

TEAM MEMBERS: **Top Row** Jack Hopkins BHS,
John Eoh Stockdale, Jorge Cervantes Mira Monte, T.J. Ellis BCHS
Bottom Row Jenna George Stockdale, Abby Menta Garces,
Methea Hansen Frontier, Anabel Alvidrez-Tovar BHS



Team "Scroll Smarter"

Sponsored by Dignity Health, Mercy and Memorial Hospitals

Partnering with local medical professionals and educators, students hosted an event at CTEC for area high schoolers to explore the effects of doom scrolling. Through fun activities and hands-on discussions, they encouraged students to put down their phones and enjoy other ways to connect and engage.

\$250 donated to Bakersfield Angels

TEAM MEMBERS: **Top Row** Jack Dunlap BHS, Diego Benitez Stockdale,
Aidan Kimmel Frontier, Mikel Iturriria Centennial
Bottom Row Reagan Young Liberty, Eren Salceda West,
Kate Wegis Garces, Zoey Hernandez Foothill



SPONSORED BY



Community Projects

Team Photos FROM EVENT NIGHT
soluxe | creative
soluxercreative.com



Team "People's Pantry"

Sponsored by Grimmway Produce Group

Students teamed up with ROC and local companies to build three pantries stocked with food and hygiene items. They revealed them at a fun community event at the Boys and Girls Club, showing that small efforts can help everyone in the community thrive.

\$250 donated to Boys & Girls Club

TEAM MEMBERS: *Top Row* Christian Camou Centennial, Luke Tobias Garces, Benjamin Pursel BCHS, Brandon Altamirano Foothill
Bottom Row Marylin Diaz South, Jordyn Dutto Highland, Riley Taft BHS, Imanni Brar Liberty



Team "Kern the Tide"

Sponsored by Kern Steel Fabrication, Inc.

Promoting water safety along the Kern River, students partnered with Spartan Inc. to create warning signs for high-risk areas. They also hosted a lively event at Hart Park with help from Bakersfield Search and Rescue, showing that with a little awareness and teamwork, we can enjoy the river's beauty and stay safe doing it.

\$250 donated to Bakersfield Search & Rescue

TEAM MEMBERS: *Top Row* Segen Von Flue BHS, Logan Jenkins BCHS, Gabriel Olango Stockdale, Levi Delgado East
Bottom Row Rosie Rodriguez Mira Monte, Arlene Ramos Golden Valley, Fatima Aceves Soltero Liberty, Danni Fletcher Centennial



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

~Margaret Mead

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Funding Students' Futures

Since 1998, the Education Foundation has provided over **\$818,500** in scholarships for high school seniors. Our foundation is grateful for all of the community support and generous contributions that make it possible for us to award 32 Ford Dream Builder student leaders with a **\$2,000 scholarship** to aid with college expenses. The Foundation also presented **sixteen additional awards** to seniors that actively demonstrated leadership and rose above personal challenges.



Jorge Cervantez, Fatima Aceves Soltero, Eren Salceda, Brandon Altamirano Recipients of the Bank of the Sierra Scholarship

Through a grant, Bank of the Sierra provided four scholarships to our students. Larry Velasquez, Market President presented the scholarships. Currently, Jorge, Fatima and Brandon are at UCLA and Eren is attending Bakersfield College.



Jenna George, Methea Hansen, Marylin Diaz Recipients of the Mikie Hay Friendship Scholarship

These three exceptional young women received scholarships in the name of our founder, Mikie Hay, which was funded by her Pi Phi sorority sisters. Mikie presented the scholarships on behalf of her Pi Phi sisters. Jenna is attending University of Colorado Boulder, Methea is at San Diego State University and Marylin is attending UC Berkeley.



Kate Wegis, Luke Tobias, Riley Taft, Jack Hopkins Recipients of the Ray & Joan Dezember Memorial Scholarship

The Ray and Joan Dezember Memorial Scholarships are in honor of two people who believed in our motto of "Service Over Self" as well as in the youth of our community. Four scholarships were presented by Katie Dezember Werdel and Cheri Ezell on behalf of their family. Kate is attending University of Michigan, Luke is at Cal Poly SLO, Riley is at University of South Carolina and Jack is attending UC Davis.



Diego Benitez & Danni Fletcher Recipients of the California Resources Corporation Scholarship

This year we were honored to have a new scholarship awarded by California Resources Corporation. CRC believes in giving back to the community of Bakersfield and is proud to present two scholarships to Diego Benitez and Danni Fletcher who are both attending UC Santa Barbara.



Benjamin Pursel & Gabriel Olango Recipients of the Alumni Scholarship

Our Ford Dimension program recently celebrated 50 years of community service! We held a reunion and the proceeds from that event were placed in a fund and allowed us to award two scholarships. Alumni Justin Salters presented the awards. Gabriel Olango is attending Morehouse College and Benjamin Pursel is attending Cal Poly SLO.



The John & Sheila Lake Humanitarian Scholarship:

Each year, the Foundation Board honors an individual, couple, or family who exemplifies the spirit of “**service over self.**” This year, we are proud to recognize the **John and Sheila Lake Family** with a \$2,000 Humanitarian Scholarship awarded in their name. Their son, J.P. Lake presented the award on behalf of his parents.

Through their generosity, humility, and hands-on involvement, John and Sheila Lake have made a lasting impact on the Bakersfield community. They have consistently stepped forward where the need is greatest, inspiring others through their example of selfless service. Their commitment to giving has also

been passed on to the next generation. John Lake and his wife, Ingrid, continue the family’s legacy through their civic engagement and the SeedCore Foundation, supporting initiatives that strengthen our community.

This year’s Humanitarian Scholarship recipient is T.J. Ellis, a graduate of Bakersfield Christian High School. During high school, T.J. served in ASB and FCA, played on the boys volleyball team, and led three Bible studies. He plans to major in Agricultural Business with the goal of building a career in agriculture.

Congratulations to T.J., and thank you to the Lake family for inspiring future generations to lead through service.



Full Rides From Coast to Coast!

Diego Benitez is beginning his college journey at UC Santa Barbara, studying Pre-Biology with support from the UC Santa Barbara Promise Scholarship. He looks forward to building new experiences and connections while preparing for a career in marine biology. *His advice: apply for everything, put yourself out there, you never know which opportunity will change your future.*

Danni Fletcher is attending UC Santa Barbara, studying Political Science with support from the UC Santa Barbara Promise Scholarship. She plans to attend law school and become a family attorney, eventually creating programs for underprivileged girls. *Her advice: research every scholarship, apply for small ones too, and enjoy senior year.*

John Eoh is pursuing his studies at Princeton University, majoring in Public Policy, supported by the Gates Scholarship. He looks forward to expanding his academic knowledge while learning from people with diverse backgrounds and experiences. *His advice: stay true to yourself, keep persevering, and don’t be afraid to apply for scholarships that seem out of reach.*



Zoey Hernandez has chosen to attend Brown University, majoring in Public Health & Human Biology, supported by a scholarship recognizing her academic achievement and financial need. She plans to use Brown’s open curriculum to explore her interests and prepare for a public health career. *Her advice: let your application reflect who you truly are.*

Ford Dimension: 50 Years of Student Involvement

1975-1976 Mary Baird • Leon Harris • Marianne Logan • Sterling Wilson **1976-1977** Mary Burlington • Nahum Chandler • Anna Ermigarat • Fr. Craig Harrison • Mike Kelly • Kerry Kelly • Tom Moore • Clair Trotter **1977-1978** Mark Andrew • Karen Coulston • David Eastwood • Pam Knight • Blaine Randolph • Teri Phillips • Jeanne Van Schaack • Scott Whitley **1978-1979** Jill Brock • Harriet Rice • Dr. Peter Ruiz • Vince Sakowski • Juliana Secor • Greg Towery • Darryl Tucker • Jeff Vaughan **1979-1980** Silvia Aguila • Julie Bowser • Judy Fisher • Gina Franconi • Bonita Iritani • Shawn Kelly • Scott Kohlbush • Pam Norris • Pete Rodriguez • Mark Wu **1980-1981** Mary Busacca • Darrin Craig • John Denvir • Julie Duggan • Dr. Charles Flowers • Becci Gutierrez • Dr. Fred Teixeira • Leslie Wetterholm • Peter Wu **1981-1982** Julie Amenta • Michael Cassidy • Cathy Curtis • Mary Kay Haller • Dr. Fred Laningham • Nathan Lehmann • Clare Loken • Brett Morris • John Perisich • Cynthia Wong **1982-1983** Tracy Andrew • Tim Blanton • Jeanne Denvir • Jim Freitas • Kathy Goodwin • Patrick Lencioni • Mark Luttrell • James Moore • Robert Mosley • Shari Ortiz • Dana Sears **1983-1984** Helen Chao • Jack Coronel • Rowena Dalton • Diane Haller • Dr. Matthew Jones • Joel Judge II • Jay Julian • Kimberlee Kingsbury • Alicia Ritter • Jeff Walls **1984-1985** Marcie Antongiovanni • Karen Banducci • Chris Cunningham • John Garone • Paul Goodwin • Chad Hendrix • Dr. Dineen Johnson • Lisa Maloney • Shem Oesch • Beth Wainwright **1985-1986** Brian Adams • Amy Anspach • Lisa Caswell • Alonzo Hill • Laura Keith • Jay Kuster • Amy McMurtrey • Doug Morrison • Robert Ruiz **1986-1987** Dr. Nalyn Ang • Tina Antongiovanni • Doug Camenisch • Robert Duquette • Brian Jett • Doug MacMillan • Annie Madsen • Erica Schmidt • Todd Sorrell • Mike Williams • Dr. Sally Wonderly **1987-1988** Maria Bernal • Brian Enge • Jennifer Hartenberger • Anton Holty • John Kovacevich • Dr. John Kuss • Renee Massey • Cathy Muxlow • Nicole Parra • Gary Rush • Bryan Taylor • Hilary Werdel **1988-1989** Bernice Garza • John Gillett • Vanessa Goodyear • Karyn Lewis • Camille Mosley • Peter Parra • Cassie Pulscamp • Scott Reade • John Werdel • Derek Yurosek **1989-1990** John Anderson • Shelley Anthony • Tess Bernal • Matt Billings • Nate Cooper • Katie Dezember • Justin Fortmeyer • Nicole Gafford • Mike James • Jason Rankin • Trisha Stiles • Chandler Wonderly **1990-1991** Alexis Ash • Jeneen Arrache • Dr. J.W. Beard • Angelique Berens • Jason Cherry • Aimee Dover • John Grant • Matt Ornelaz • Robert Ray • Deborah Robertson • Mike Serban • Sunshine Smith • Brandon Taylor **1991-1992** Jim Beagle • Jeff Buckley • Kristen Carstensen • Payam Edalat • Corey Funk • Adam Icardo • Bridgette Loyd • Chad Manning • Karen Morales • Beth Oesch • Zachery Shaffer • Cindy Sopko • Katie Werdel **1992-1993** Tom Antongiovanni • Taylor Ashland • David Beard • Emmy Cattani • Deborah Finn • Carrie Gillett • Brian Grant • Nick Herndon • Alison MacGuire • Joo-Jin Ong • Sharon Stephenson • Jody Thomas **1993-1994** Amanda Duquette • Anica Dutto • Joseph Etcheverry • Amador Galvez III • Jay Heisey • Jason Karr • Sharon Koenig • Carmella Lucas • Tim McAbee • Beth Nakashima • Nicolette Ornelaz • Craig Reid • Jeremy Scheidle • Melinda Smith **1994-1995** Steven Acosta • Mike Echeverria • Kenny Eynaud • Angie Grah • Jason Hodgson • Amber Jung • Adam Kovacevich • Jamie Larma • Kelly Loyd • Tiffani Ludd • Brian Sherrill • Michelle Sopko • Jody Yaksitch • Elliot Zimmer **1995-1996** Michelle Bella • Katie Brewer • Lauren Brock • Ryan Carstensen • Ryan Doolittle • Russell Hiney • Gary Lewis • Trish Rhode • Jamal Watkins **1996-1997** Don Bynum • Andrew Elms • Janelle Giumarra • Janelle Green • Matthew Hadden • Kayla Jones • Nicole Rizkalla • Jackie Sisante • Dan Thorp • Josh Williams **1997-1998** Matt Antongiovanni • Laura Brommelsiek • Reagan Franks • Jarrod Hicks • David Klein • Jeff Larma • Niki Perez • Andrea Pfister • Crystal Porter • Bernardo Salcido • Jason Waugh • Anna Wegis **1998-1999** Vidhya Bala • Tiffany Campbell • Luis Caric • Antone Chicca • Lesley Clifford • Willa Crosby • Thomas Fiori • Ryan Green • Marques Mascarinas • Rikky Penney • Nicole Sampley • Min Su • Allison Ulbrich **1999-2000** Katie Benham • Elisa Carroll • Jason Carter • Alex Fong • Ryan Garcia • Melissa Grimm • Kate Hersberger • Sydney Howard • Megan Jager • Taliah Nuriddin • Aaron Orndorff • Todd Sachs • Kevin Thelen • Amanda Whitten **2000-2001** Mohamed Ahmed • Katy Assaturian • Natalie Erlendson • Patrick Frazier • Eric Garthoffner • Mark Gonzalez • Lisa Green • Elizabeth Hill • Feven Kiflegiorgis • Chase Nunneley • Shannon Robertson • Rylan Rozell • Amy Sakowski • Joseph Sithole • Kirstin Woody **2001-2002** Sarah Audelo • Andrew Boylan • Ray Crosby • Kathy Elliott • Nicolette Eyherabide • Christina Gutierrez • Tyler Hair • Brandon Jones • Alex McGillivray • Peter Nichols • Stacey O'Neill • Nick Reese • Kevin Saiki • Jared Smith • Kristina Smith • Amanda Weddle **2002-2003** Jacob Ceccarelli • Céleigh wChapman • Paige Hill • Eric Hughes • Brian Jacobs • Courtney Lewis • Steven McCutcheon • Melissa Miro • Amerika Niño • Kevin Porter • Jared Schwacho • Rebecca Scoonover • Greg Swertfager • Laura Thomas • Patience Thompson **2003-2004** Amberia Allen • Denise Benavente • Marley Bynum • Chase Chapman • Suzanne Dezember • Ellen Dobie • Whitney Johnson • Keith Legro • Alexandria Madera • Tom Montgomery • Andy Reese • Josh Stephens • Darren Thomas • Joe Whittington • Laura Yoon **2004-2005** Ian Brenner • Rosie Etcheverry • Matthew Hammett • Stephanie Hankinson • Bradley Huge • Courtney McKinley • Neha Mehta • Ryan Newbrough • Patrick Noland • Natalie Ryan • Matthew Scanlan • Joshua Speidel • Renee Taylor • Katherine Thomas **2005-2006** Jessie Garcia • Andia Heydari • Matthew Hicks • Mitchell Lecrone • Patrick McDermott • Lindsey Shambaugh • Talesha Triplett • Cori Tucker • Josh Waldon • Kelsey Woodard **2006-2007** Brian Anderson • Denise Ellison • Rick Gonzalez • Jessica Hagen • Matt Heiss • Nick Northrop • John Pierucci • Christina Quintanilla • Zochilt Ramos • Brittney Smith **2007-2008** Brant Bonetti • Aaron Dobie • Tesfa Habebo • Hannah Haggerty • Ana Heydari • Justin Koh • Peter Mitchell • Angelina Roman • Bryce Vlach • Carolyne Vu **2008-2009** Joey Bermudez • Derrick Chan • Liz Crowe • Jackie Garcia • Paul Guaglianone • Laura Hicks • Deepa Kannappan • Riley Scott • Evan Szablowski • Allison Wiener **2009-2010** Joanne Bae • Austin Davis • Kirby Ellis • Charles Glavin • Melissa Merrill • Grant Paulson • Lauren Richardson • Samantha Valdez • Drew Wiggins • Andrew Whittington **2010-2011** Cory Barker • Lauren Cline • Dwyane Facho • Alex Gomez • Corey Hobbs • Brandon Louey • Jocelyn McGill • Sarah Moore • Victoria Nakagawa • Vid Reddy **2011-2012** Nicole Angelini • Christopher Bedke • Seth Champness • Enoch Chang • Jotthe Kannappan • Zeno Lee • Scout Ocampo • Paola Pena • Teddi Pierce • Spencer Shoemaker **2012-2013** Brock Burger • Derek Frost • Ryan Holmes • Connor Kingsbury • Erica McCall • Abigail Mejia • Ashly Mohankumar • Theimus Roberson • Anne Shambaugh • Brianna Wright **2013-2014** Marbella Avalos • Annie Bardet • Vincent Del Papa • Christina Fuentes • Ariella Goldstein • Gurjot Kaur • Christopher Mazmanian • Alex Mazzeo • Alex Medina • Jaskaran Sandhu **2014-2015** Joseph Aguilar • Olivia Belda • Nia Brazzell • Nelson Chandler • Lisa Darquea • Jordon Dawson • Amrit Dhillon • Elizabeth McMurray • John Soper • Ali Vaughan **2015-2016** Alexis Adjei • Garrett Andrew • Chandler Beck • Cassidy Grimsley • Garret Kingsbury • Neal Mathew • Noelle Pardo • Nicolle Sanchez • Brock Simpson • Brittany St. Clair **2016-2017** Sophia Caputo • Ryan Crowley • Samantha Jimenez • Raguvir Kunani • Artemis Mansur • Zach Parham • Caleb Pollema • Kyra Sales • Shikha Srinivas • Tyler Sweaney **2017-2018** Fernando Argueta • Mikaela Cardenas • Michael Del Mundo • Austin Gaines • Caleb Garcia • Karla Guzman • Liane McQueen • O'zie Sagbohan • Molly Soper • Jackson Vaughan **2018-2019** Claire Champagne • Amador Gallardo • Naomi Jennings • Margo Kune • Naveen Mathew • Payton Renz • Nate Roodzant • Jessica Stump • Fernando Tello • Shotaro Yamaguchi **2019-2020** Natalie Hawatmeh • Jasmine Garza • Mahima Kunani • Chase McLewis • Zachary McNaughton • Benji Nixon • Nick Pardo • Keshav Patel • Hailey Plugge • Aleyna Young **2020-2021** Lauren Buetow • Isabella Caputo • James Guereña • Luz Lara • Isaac Larroque • Joachim Ma • Jake Nahama • Phoebe Nguyen • Bricen Rigby • Madalyn Schonauer **2021-2022** Iman Abumeri • Jacob Borda • Sophia Curutchague • Dara Deru • Sam Ellis • Crista Flores • Garrett Guinn • Janae Hutson • Liam O'Connor • Travis Plugge **2022-2023** Mukul Anand • Joshua Braun • Gabriella Camou • Kaitlyn Corral • Daniel Hall • Bella Hawatmeh • JT Toler • Ivan Tran • Sofia Truong • Aiden Young **2023-2024** Kelsey Abraham • Zachary Been • Harjaisal Brar • Branton Dickey • Noor El Kereamy • Natalie Hawkins • Katie Johnson • Michael Kyei • Nathan Martinez • Sarah Celine Pursel **2024-2025** Rachelle Barreyro • Thomas Buckley • River Carreno • Vaughn Forsyth • Valeria Jirano • Braden Mendiburu • Noah Santillan • Sienna Surgener • Brooke Tallon • Thomas Woods **2025-2026** John Eoh • Danni Fletcher • Methea Hansen • Jack Hopkins • Gabriel Olango • Benjamin Pursel • Rosalinda Rodriguez • Riley Taft • Luke Tobias • Kate Wegis

BACK ROW

Dominic Icardo BCHS

Tanav Doddapuneni Stockdale

Caden Haner North

Gabe Bridges BCHS

Parmpreet Bhangoo Ridgeway

FRONT ROW

Michelle Antongiovanni Garces

Japji Kaur Independence

Maddie Porter Liberty

Mary Claire Zimmer BCHS

Alexandria Andersen Centennial



**theFord
Dimension**

2027 BOARD MEMBERS SELECTED

Welcome to Our Ford Family!

“Building a Legacy Across Generations”

Ann Hansen & Methea Hansen

Some legacies are measured not by what we leave behind, but by the hearts we inspire. Long before her granddaughter joined the Ford Dimension program, Ann Hansen found her own place in its story. Introduced to the program by Mikie Hay, Ann began helping with student interviews before becoming Mikie’s assistant. Looking back, she says, “I loved every minute of mentoring these dynamic seniors.”

When Methea Hansen, Class of 2026, entered her junior year, Ann knew she would be “a perfect candidate because of her personality, personal commitment to volunteerism, and her leadership qualities.” Watching her granddaughter blossom has been one of Ann’s greatest joys.

For Methea, sharing the experience with her beloved Nonni made the journey even more meaningful. “Having my Nonni by my side was something I will forever cherish,” she says. “I never wanted it to end.”

Now, Methea begins an exciting chapter at her dream school, San Diego State University, where she’ll study journalism with an emphasis in advertising and join the SDSU Dance Team. Grateful for the program’s “countless opportunities of community service, friendship, and connectivity,” Methea carries forward a legacy of service, proving the greatest gifts we pass down are the values we live.





INTRODUCING THE 2026-2027 Dream Builders

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A Dream Builder with a Crown



“Being named Miss Teen Bakersfield 2026 and serving as a Ford Dream Builder are two of the greatest honors I have received because they allow me to give back to the community that has provided me with so much. These experiences have taught me that true leadership is about lifting others up, creating opportunities, and leading with kindness. I am grateful to represent Bakersfield while inspiring young people to dream big, work hard, and give back.”

—Teena Binu, Centennial High School

Fun and Games, Family Style

One of the first opportunities for the Class of 2027 to serve came close to home at the Jim Burke Ford Company Picnic, a tradition bringing employees and their families together since 1913.

Held at the Kern County Museum, the picnic is more than an event. It celebrates family, community, and the values guiding the Jim Burke Ford family for generations. The dealership has played a role supporting Ford Dream Builders, making this project meaningful.

Throughout the evening, students volunteered in the children’s game area, welcomed guests by shuttling them from registration to the picnic in golf carts, distributed raffle prizes, and kept energy high. They stayed to assist with cleanup, showing that service continues after the celebration ends.

For many students, it was their first opportunity to serve as Ford Dream Builders. Mason Bucher shared, “The company picnic was the perfect opportunity to get to know my fellow Dream Builders while seeing firsthand how much the company values not only its employees, but also the community.” Students joined traditions like the potato sack race and raw egg toss. Although Mason “ended up losing both,” he said the competitions “provided an icebreaker” to connect with teammates and members of the Ford family.



ABOVE STUDENTS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Sienna Lopez South, Brody Pierce BCHS, Asher Ianiero Centennial, Courtney Adams BCHS, Seth Bal Liberty, Emelia Ellis Liberty, Azin Khajvand Stockdale, Mason Bucher Stockdale, Kendall Rogers Stockdale, Matthew Lopez Garces, Boston Saunders East, Lucia White Garces, Isaac Ornelas BHS, Angelo Roman Frontier, Jacquelin Gomez South, Grace Apsit Frontier, Everett Hess BHS, Teena Binu Centennial, Manveer Singh Ridgeview, Elizabeth Villatoro Frontier, Anthony Beckman Mira Monte, Lauren Newkirk East

Dream Builders Alumni: 23 Years & 93 Civic Projects

2003-2004 Jacquelyne Bartell • Ximena Benitz • Nick Braaten • Vanna Cable • Madisyn Coniglio • Lauren DeBranch • Carey Demos • Jon Dickson • Jeffrey Elms • CheyLinel Gaston • Justin Grammy • Michael Gutierrez • Ben Hicks • Tara Howlett • Andrew Huge • Michael Hughes • Daniel Hughes • Jessica Koh • Kristin Love • Roxanne Martinez • Philip McDermott • Cody Meek • Laura Northrop • Katie Pierruci • Rena Romanini • Blanca Sanchez • Lisa-Marie Stramaglia • Tiphannie White **2004-2005** Michael John Arraztoa • Katie Barton • Jennifer Berry • Katie Berry • Akriti Bhambi • Lyndon Braganza • Caitlin Chapman • Niles Dhanens • Kristen Edwards • Megan Elrod • John Gaugel • Neil Gehlawat • Jordan Hall • Kristen Hay • Jonathan Hughes • Rena Jacobs • Jeff Lippert • Gustavo Luna • Ashley Mettler • Anna Miro • Mary Grace Panos • Emily Parker • Alex Parsons • Albert Raygoza • Brittany Rice • Gina Rossi • John Scott • Marci Scott • Emma Shapiro • Jennifer Shuler • Jessie Simonson • James Tasker • Ebony Villaseñor • Kirsten Wirth • Mercedes Yezpe • Amanda Zvirblis **2005-2006** Taylor Barnes • Domenick Buck • Matt Cappuccio • Josh Cella • Candy Cuestas • Amy Dezember • Ashley Dunn • Sarah Franz • Ben Giesbrecht • Dustin Glentzer • Mark Goya • Gregory Gutierrez • Chris Holloway • Meagan Jackson • Summer Jordan • Maria Krauter • Nathan Longrier • Catie Mueller • Alexis Nelson • Stacie Nichols • Raechel Paine • Chris Ruiz • Paige Phillips • Justin Salters • Elizabeth Scarbrough **2006-2007** Byron Alexander • Audrey Austin • Katie Belluomini • Katrina Berry • Andrew Bryant • Matthew Cuellar • Kasem Cornelius • Marco De Leon • Amanda Haney • Nick Harrington • Nicholas Houchin • Taylor Hurt • Kevin Kobliska • Melissa Lucas • Sydney Mackessy • Alexandra Maxwell • John Moore • Mandy Morley • Nancy Nasrawin • Viet Nguyen • Filiberto Nieves • Nnenna Odeluga • Courtney Richmond • Ryan Wingate **2007-2008** Taylor Alexander • Mara Arevalo • Kseniya Astakhova • Geoffrey Becker • Heather Brenner • James Creech • David Heisler • Danae Jarrett • Nina Krauter • Peter Kelly • Jacob Loeffler • Kevin Lott • Diviya Manohara • Samuel Musick • Nick Navez • Devin Russell • Terryen Soelberg • Torree Soelberg • Julianne Thomas • Paige Tucker • Kehaulani Valos • Monique White **2008-2009** Nicole Banister • Kristina Barrientos • Julia Berchtold • Clay Camp • Mayra Estrada • Ashlyn Eyraud • Lynsey Fringer • Michael Golich • Alejandro Gonzalez • Bryan Grimm • Taylor Hankinson • Nathaniel Ketelhut • Geoffrey Lee • Libby Loeffler • Alex Mitchell • Josh Novins • Vinny Oddo • Deborah Pena • Meghan Prout • Josh Shambaugh • Lynn Tasker • Sarah Urata **2009-2010** Sandra Aldama • P.J. Atchison • Brian Austin • Morgan Barnes • Rosalinda Cortez • John Cummings • Matt Darr • Kyle Gillespie • Mona Gupta • Amy Kelly • Kacie Mills • Elise Norris • Hillary Orton • Cici Pandol • D.J. Pepito • Justin Roney • David Roth • Cornelius Sackey • Rodolfo Salgado • Morgan Solorio • Lisa Soper • Paul Steele **2010-2011** Samson Ahferom • Kirsten Albers • William Beechinor • Eli Carroll • Mackenzie Carter • Lance Collins • Marley Dawson • Sophia Garcia • Julio Gonzalez • Juan Heredia • Jessica Hernandez • Bryce Keene • Daniel Kooren • Gage Marchini • Mason Otten • Archana Patel • Melanie Reis • Gagandeep Samra • Manpreet Sandhu • Viviana Sanchez • Meagan Shambaugh • Chad Spalinger **2011-2012** Kayla Bernardino • Annie Berry • Cory Camp • Molly Chandler • Gabriela Cuevas • Austin Donovan • Lauren Fringer • Cameron Hines • Sharonjeet Kaur • Joshua Miller • Leah Moore • Danny Munoz • Kelsie Rhodes • Scott Riccomini • Grecia Rivera • Ali Schroeter • Luigi Soper • Joshua St. Clair • Nick Treiberg • Curtis Valencia • Tyler Valencia • Carli Yoro **2012-2013** Paige Basconcillo • Connor Brady • Corbin Burnes • Nolan Cooney • Katie Cornford • Xitlaly Estrada • Connor Fischer • Joshua Gaddis • Abbey Grisedale • Esperanza Gutierrez • Charles Hale • Heather Hansen • Robert Keathley • Caroline Kim • Renae Lewis • Emily Norris • Joshua Park • Alexander Pearson • Sean Tieu • Alice Verderber • Hunter Villanueva • Bailey Wanner **2013-2014** Karen Aguirre • Sara Baldrige • Anthony Busacca • Ali Champness • Patrick Crowley • Michael Cushine • Nicholas Del Mundo • Andrew Francis • Angelica Fuentes • Harmanet Gill • Gabriel Glazer • Austin Huckaby • Claryce Lazerson • Brittney Lu • Gabriel Macias • Daisy Mercado • Grant Obenshain • Angelica Osorio • Alexis Robles • Casey Ross • Augustine Vasquez • Ben Ward **2014-2015** Christian Alcala • Alexis Ayala • Ulysis Baal • Victoria Boyd • Bridget Boylan • Hannah Contois • Karlee Cornford • Anthony Delatore • Yuya Fujita • Matthew Haley • Douglas Johnston • Aaron Levins • Cristian Magdalen • Conner Marden • Zac Pyle • Elisa Quinonez • Anycia Reyes • Jessica Savarese • Bailey Slayton • Zulima Uribe • Brett Voth • Leigh Whitson **2015-2016** Andrew Aleman • Chandler Basconcillo • Julia Castro • Ethan Francis • Lexi Gibson • Shawn Hill • Kaylee Holland • Jordan Holmes • Jordian Hunter • Madeline Kuney • Fahad Molla • Ryan Morosa • Veena Narashiman • Libby Otten • Andre Paradise • Jesus Perez • Grace Prall • Cameron Reeves • Lucas Solis • Gabriel Torres • Aaron Wan • Payton Yee **2016-2017** John Abrams • Jackson Carroll • Gabriela Chumpitaz • Ishani Desai • Spencer Glazer • Luisa Guzman Gomez • Carlos Hernandez • Raja Kumar • Grace Martinez • Clayton Nalesnik • Sean Nguyen • Karen Quezada • Carlos Ramirez • Laura Randolph • Krystal Raynes • Emma Reynolds • Kathryn Rodriguez • Edgar Sanchez Jr. • Tommy Toretta • Daniel Tweedy • Andrea Uribe • Victoria Von Flue **2017-2018** Emily Aldritt • Eddy Aleman • Dawn Bransby • Nyoko Brown • Ethan Estrada • Manny Flores • Malcolm Francisco • Noe Garcia • Adam Hererra • Bryce Jackson • Emily Johnston • Aarushi Kapoor • Logan King • Kim Marquez • Noah McNaughton • Alexis 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The Jim Burke Education Foundation 2026 | 9

A Postcard from College

Dear Mikie,

As I begin my sophomore year at Notre Dame, I can't help but look back on my time with The Ford Dimension and feel an incredible sense of pride and gratitude for having had the opportunity to be a part of your program. This program has influenced my character and values, and I would not be where I am today without the experiences I had through Ford.

Possibly the most impactful lesson The Ford Dimension taught me is the value of service to my community. Through this program you showed me that, with the right amount of dedication and hard work, anyone can make a meaningful contribution to the lives of others. I have carried that lesson with me through serving my new community in college. Although I go to school thousands of miles from home, I have never felt more connected to Bakersfield.

The Ford Dimension also gave me a strong sense of accountability. You showed me that the standard to which I hold myself every day defines not only how others see me, but also how I see myself. You held me and my peers in The Ford Dimension to a higher standard, and that was perhaps the greatest gift you gave us.

Thank you, Mikie, for everything you have done for me and our community.

Best,

Tommy Buckley (FD'25)

University of Notre Dame 2029



With heartfelt thanks, we recognize these 2025–2026 Advisors for their dedication, c

Ali Border, Evan Border, Jane Couperus, Bree Feng, Elliot Feng, Liz Haley, Kimberly Marquez, Shem Oesch, Vinny Oddo, Alex Parsons, Beau Pearson, Kathleen Pearson, Carson Parks, Donna Sharp, Tyler Sweaney, Laura Thomas, Nicolette Thomson, Sarah Trichell, Larry Velasquez

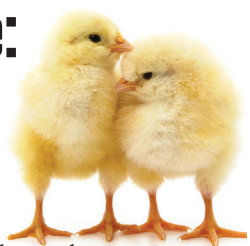


Team Bank of the Sierra



Team Kern Steel Fabrication

Chicks for Change: Hatching Hope in Mozambique



Ford Dream Builders students have always been known for their heart for service, often pairing compassion with an entrepreneurial spirit. Rather than simply asking, “How can I help?” they ask, “How can I create lasting change?” Alumni Sophia Caputo ‘17 and Julia Berchtold ‘09 are doing exactly that.

As co-founders of Sharing Hope Africa, they help transform lives in rural southern Africa through sustainable, community-led solutions. The organization partners with local leaders to expand access to education, employment, food, clean water, and healthcare.

One partnership is Sharing Hope Preschool in Licilo, Mozambique, where more than 50 children receive free education, nutritious meals, and clean water. After more than a decade of serving families through donor support, they recognized that lasting impact required a new approach.

The result was Chicks for Change, a campaign to raise \$15,000 in 15 days for a community-owned poultry project.

Thanks to 160 generous donors, the campaign raised \$17,307, funding a chicken coop and creating jobs for local contractors and future “chicken tenders.”

Beginning this fall, the flock will provide sustainable income through egg sales to help cover food, school supplies, and teacher salaries while creating employment for local women. The preschool is becoming increasingly self-sustaining, empowering the entire community.

Their journey reminds us that the Ford Dimension experience doesn’t truly end at graduation, it only grows into bold ideas, servant leadership, and practical solutions that create lasting positive change around the world.



◀ Help Chicks for Change make an impact!



With commitment, guidance and contributions:



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SPECIAL THANKS TO

Soluxe Creative, Photography
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Growing Tomorrow's Leaders:

Where Ford Dream Builders Meets the Boys & Girls Club

One of the most rewarding partnerships of the Ford Dream Builders program is with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Kern County, where our students have the opportunity to encourage, mentor, and celebrate the next generation of leaders.

Each month throughout the school year, Ford Dream Builders visit Boys & Girls Club after-school programs at local middle schools to recognize a student who exemplifies outstanding character. Selected by the site coordinators and staff, each **Ford Jr. Youth of the Month** demonstrates the qualities our program values most: leadership, academic achievement, kindness, responsibility, and a willingness to serve others both at school and at home.

“Our partnership with Jim Burke Ford continues to provide meaningful recognition and real encouragement at a critical age for our youth,” says Ramiro Martinez of the Boys & Girls Clubs. “This program and partnership shows our students that their community is invested in their future.”

Each recipient is honored with a Ford Jr. Youth T-shirt, a Target gift card, and a certificate, but the celebration doesn't end there. Our students stay to answer questions about high school, offering advice, sharing experiences, and even laughing through questions about their favorite foods, hobbies, and video games. Those conversations often become the highlight of the visit, helping younger students see that high school is something they can look forward to!

At the end of the year, all of the monthly recipients are celebrated during the Ford Jr. Youth Awards Banquet alongside their families, community leaders, and supporters. One exceptional student is named **Ford Jr. Youth of the Year** and receives a laptop and backpack to help prepare for the exciting journey ahead.

Our partnership extends beyond the classroom through **Spread the Love**, a favorite annual tradition. During this two-day service project, Dream Builders prepare hundreds of peanut butter and jelly lunches before personally delivering them to Boys & Girls Club sites, where they spend time playing games, building friendships, and creating lasting memories with the children. This year, the supplies for the peanut butter and jelly lunches were generously purchased by Renee Massey, Vice President of People and Culture at Jim Burke Ford, in honor of her late mother, Deenie Massey, on what would have been her birthday.

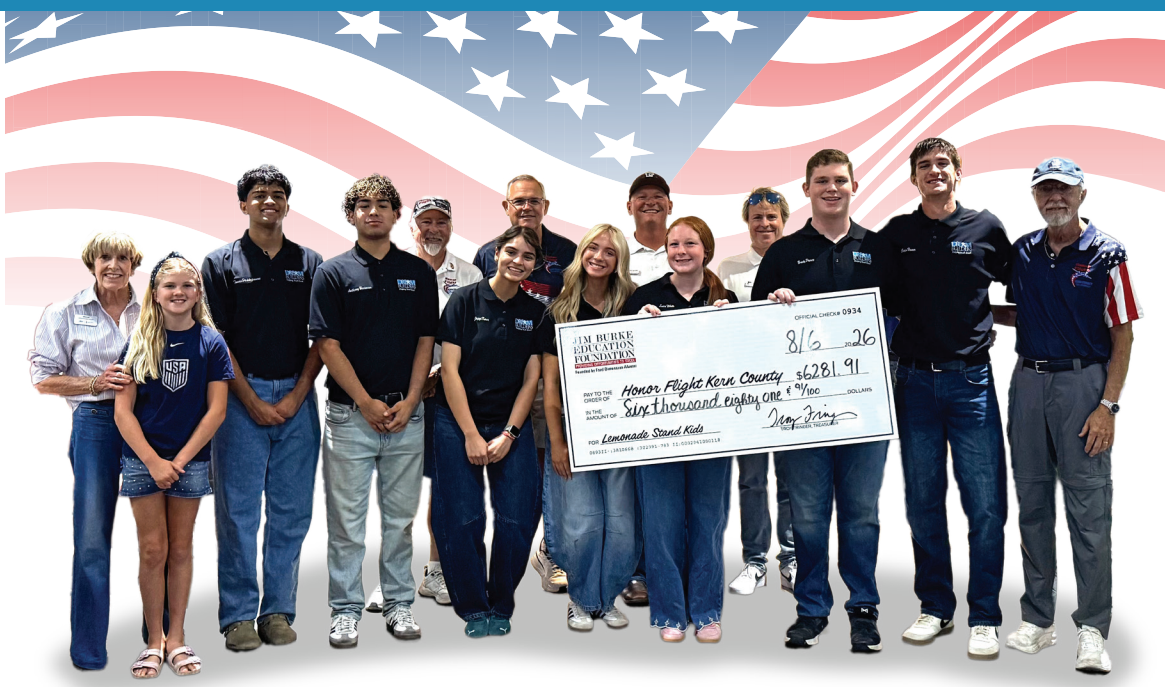
The Boys & Girls Clubs have long been a place where young people find encouragement, opportunity, and a sense of belonging. We are honored to partner with an organization that shares our commitment to helping every child discover their potential. Together, we aren't just recognizing future leaders—we're helping inspire them to become one.



How It All Began: The Legacy of Jim Burke

In 1994, two hundred Ford Dimension alumni from across the country gathered to honor Jim Burke and thank him for the contributions he made to improve educational opportunities for local youth through the Ford Dimension program. As a tribute to Mr. Burke, and the program he began in 1975, the alumni announced the founding of the Jim Burke Education Foundation.

In 2003, Ford Dimension alumni and the Jim Burke Education Foundation Directors created Dream Builders, a student leadership program for achieving high school seniors that promotes “service over self,” and career and life skills through the development of community projects. The Foundation’s mission is to continue Jim Burke’s legacy of generosity for the educational support of others.



A Sweet Salute to our Veterans

What started with a few neighborhood kids, a lemonade stand and a simple goal to raise money for Honor Flight Kern County has grown into one of our favorite Ford Dream Builders traditions!

Several years ago, our founder, Mikie Hay, recruited some adorable neighborhood kids in Old Stockdale to help raise money for local veterans. The Ford Dream Builders joined the fun a few years later, and today, that little lemonade stand has become a full-blown neighborhood party!

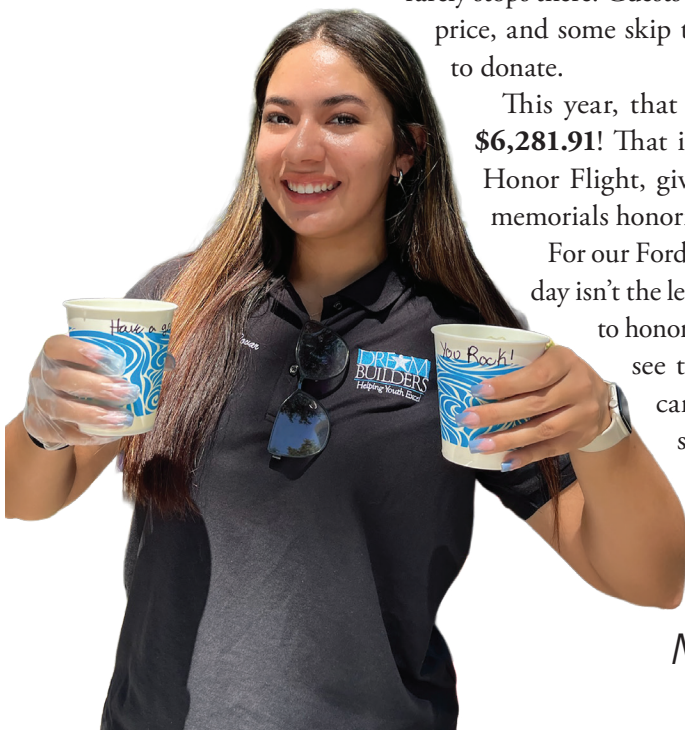
Each year, we take over a front yard in Old Stockdale with music playing, fresh lemonade flowing and plenty of cookies to go around. Veterans stop by, neighbors gather, and local news crews have even joined the fun. And while the lemonade is only \$2 a cup, our community rarely stops there. Guests generously give far more than the asking price, and some skip the lemonade entirely and simply come to donate.

This year, that generosity added up to an incredible **\$6,281.91**! That is enough to send four veterans on an Honor Flight, giving them the opportunity to visit the memorials honoring their service and sacrifice.

For our Ford Dream Builders, the sweetest part of the day isn’t the lemonade. It is experiencing what it means to honor those who have served our country. They see that service can be joyful, community can be powerful, and even something as simple as a cup of lemonade can make a big difference.

\$6,281.91
raised for Honor Flight

*Now that’s a lemonade stand
worth raising a glass to!*





What a Party!

Congratulations Mark & Julie Parsons!

Winner of this year's Ghost Party sweepstake prize of two airline tickets from **Uniglobe Golden Empire Travel**. Safe travels and have a wonderful adventure!

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Boo! Your Ghost Party invitation is in the mail. Join us!

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 Ms. Laura Yoon
 Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Zaninovich
 Mr. and Mrs. Marko B. Zaninovich
 Mr. and Mrs. Marko Zaninovich, Jr.

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Many thanks to Ray Watson Jr. at
Uniglobe®
 Golden Empire Travel
 for making this trip possible.

How It Will Continue

The legacy of Jim Burke and his spirit of generosity continues to be the driving force of the Foundation. Contributions of time, resources, and talent from advisors, directors, and community supporters have enabled the Foundation to grow in its support of education through scholarships, grants and leadership programs such as Dream Builders.

Please consider joining us in furthering the living legacy of Jim Burke through the Education Foundation!

Scan QR Code to contribute online:



Or contribute by check payable to:

Jim Burke Education Foundation
P.O. Box 316, Bakersfield, CA 93302

Name

Address

Phone or Email

Contribution

501(C)3 Non-Profit, 77-0387337 IRC

Treasurer Report

Where We Stand Financially

Thank you Kern County! Once again you have generously donated to the Jim Burke Education Foundation. This has allowed us to fund our Dream Builders program and provide financial support to many outstanding Kern County students and educational programs. Last year we received approximately \$81,321 in community contributions through Ghost Party donations and memorial gifts.

In March 2026, the Foundation granted \$72,500 in college scholarships. This year we maintained the scholarship amount at \$2,000 for every Ford Dream Builder student leader and continued funding special recognition awards and scholarships because of our donors' generosity. The Foundation also provided financial grants totaling \$1,250 to four educational programs in Kern County and funded \$ 23,000 for the Dream Builders student leadership program.

Of the total assets, the Foundation has exceeded its goal of establishing a \$1 million endowment fund that will help provide additional funds for education. The balance on June 30, 2026 was \$ 1,968,608

Summary of Foundation Financial Activities as of June 30, 2026

Total Income \$ 141,766
 (Contributions, Fundraisers and Investment Income)

Expenses

Scholarships and Grants \$ 73,000
 Dream Builders \$ 23,000
 Fundraising \$ 26,523
 Community Outreach \$ 14,784

Total Expenses \$ 136,807

Net Income \$ 4,959

Total Assets at 6/30/2026 \$1,968,608



“Ford Dream Builders created a love for service that I still carry with me today!”

*- Fletcher Bank,
Class of 2022*

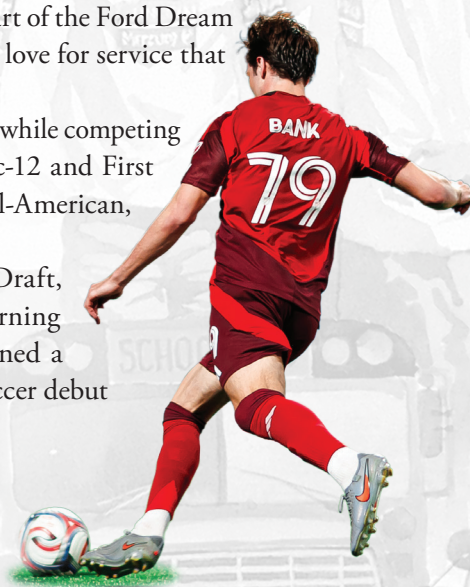
A Goal Worth Chasing: Catching up with Ford Dream Builders’ Alum Fletcher Bank

We recently caught up with Fletcher Bank, a member of the Ford Dream Builders Class of 2022, who shared how the program continues to influence him. “Being a part of the Ford Dream Builders family was a truly special experience,” Fletcher said. “It created a love for service that I still carry with me today!”

Fletcher earned a degree from Stanford in Science, Technology, & Society while competing all four seasons on the men’s soccer team. He earned First Team All-Pac-12 and First Team All-ACC honors and was named an NCAA First Team Academic All-American, one of the nation’s highest honors for student-athletes.

Toronto FC selected Fletcher 87th overall in the 2023 MLS SuperDraft, but he chose to prioritize his education and complete his degree before turning professional. Following graduation, he joined Toronto FC II, then earned a call-up to Toronto FC’s first team. In May, he made his Major League Soccer debut against Charlotte FC!

From college to professional soccer, Fletcher continues to make his hometown proud. We can’t wait to see what goals he scores next, both in life and on the pitch!



KEEP IN TOUCH!
Update Our Alumni List



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