

**\$235,000
WILL BE AWARDED IN
2027-2028**

Category Descriptions:

• Graduate Program
2 @ \$5000 scholarship, 4 @ \$2500 scholarships will be awarded to candidates who are current or incoming students with one or more years of graduate work remaining or adults looking to return to graduate school to further their career.

• General Education, Trade, or Technical School
17 @ \$2500 scholarships will be awarded to students that are entering or continuing to College, Trade School, or Technical School.

• Community College
10 @ \$1000 scholarships will be awarded to students applying to a 2-year community college or applying to start the Retail Management Certificate Program.

• Retail Management Certificate Graduates
8 @ \$2500 scholarships will be awarded to students that have completed the RMCP and are now applying to a community college or university to continue their education.

• Adversity Scholarships
2 @ \$5000 scholarship, 18 @ \$2500 scholarships will be awarded to individuals who have overcome personal adversities and have demonstrated admirable gains in academic standings.

• Christian Scholarship 1 @ \$10,000 - \$2500 paid yearly over four years. See ISTS website for details.

• Memorial Scholarships
1 @ \$5000 scholarship, 3 @ \$2500 scholarships will be awarded as a special recognition scholarship.

• \$15,000 awarded to the CGAEF

• \$50,000 awarded to WAFC



**2026-2027
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

Layla	Salinas	Anheuser Busch
Brianna	Donnelly	Barilla America
Tobias	Link	Bimbo Bakeries USA
Briana	Powell	Bimbo Bakeries USA
Clifford	Fransen	Bimbo Bakeries USA
Andrew	Wilson	Bimbo Bakeries USA
Brian	Murray	Bimbo Bakeries USA
Nicholas	Esposito	Bimbo Bakeries USA
Dylan	Kirnan	Bimbo Bakeries USA
Emily	Huang	Bimbo Bakeries USA
Jaci	Carel	Bimbo Bakeries USA
Melissa	Macias	Bimbo Bakeries USA
Edwin	Harris Jr.	Bimbo Bakeries USA
Lexie	Parrish	Bimbo Bakeries USA
Diem	Johnson	C&H Sugar Company-ASR Group
Madeline	Brewer	C.A. Carlin
Melanie	Luna	C.A. Fortune
Virginia	Stephens	C.A. Fortune
Emily	Schott	Chobani
Andrew	Soto	Food 4 Less
Jordan	Issa	Gelson's
Sonija	Lam	Gelson's
Maribel	Alvarado	Gelson's
Lauwidson	Pangaribuan	Gelson's
Jamisyln	Smith	Go Energy Foods Inc
Kaylie	Kwan	Hormel Foods
Jayleen	Gutierrez	Manzana Products Company Inc.
Reese	Perry	Manzana Products Company Inc.
Christian	Benjamin	Niagara Bottling Co.
Christiana	Benjamin	Niagara Bottling Co.
Raquel	Renteria Ramirez	Northgate Gonzalez Market
Annette	Sanchez	Northgate Gonzalez Market
Moises	Sosa Gonzalez	Northgate Gonzalez Market
Lesly	Trujillo	Northgate Gonzalez Market
Alejandro	Pedraza Santos	Northgate Gonzalez Market
Daniel	Lopez	Northgate Gonzalez Market
Eric	Serrano	Northgate Gonzalez Market
Gregorio	Puerta Sr.	Northgate Gonzalez Market
Jorge	Reyes Lozano	Northgate Gonzalez Market
Henry	Guevara	Northgate Gonzalez Market
Katelyn	Brown	NuCal Foods
Nita	Bennett	PepsiCo
Daniela	Flores	Safeway
Evan	Nasser	Smart & Final, Chedraui USA
Sheila	Forooghi	Social Sampling
Sidney	McLaughlin	Stater Bros. Markets
Alex	Trinh	Stater Bros. Markets
Darren	Ng	Stater Bros. Markets
Madison	Owens	Stater Bros. Markets
Amaya	Kelly-Hutchings	Stater Bros. Markets
Dora	Luiz	Super A Foods
Gabriela	Cruz	Superior Grocers
Olivia	Aquilina	The J.M. Smucker Co.
Hannah	Hernandez	the Performance Group
Danixa	Villalta	Vons

**Visit us Online at:
www.iefscholarships.org**



**SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM
2027-2028**

www.iefscholarships.org



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**Illuminators Educational
Foundation...
INSPIRED BY EXCELLENCE**

**THIS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
IS ENDORSED BY
MR. PAT POSEY, WAFC COO
CALIFORNIA GROCERS ASSOCIATION**

EASY 3 STEP PROCESS:

- Create an account
Go to <https://aim.applyists.net>
Use Program Key: **ILLUMINATORS**
- Fill out the application on the ISTS Portal

- Write a simple brief 250-word essay or create a video

Should you need any additional assistance, please call ISTS (International Scholarship and Tuition Services) directly at **(615) 777-3750**

SCHOLARSHIP SUBMISSION TIMELINE

- Scholarship Application Submission opens on **September 14th, 2026**
- Applications must be completed and submitted no later than **March 8th, 2027**
- Winners will be notified by email from ISTS around **mid April 2027**

WHAT IS THE SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION PROCESS?

ISTS is a third party that does the analysis of each application and chooses the winners of the IEF scholarships.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

- *High school senior, full-time college student, returning college student, or an adult returning to part time or full-time college.

**You do not have to be a student pursuing a career in the food industry to apply.*

- Must be a current member or direct relative of the Illuminators, Western Association of Food Chains, California Grocers Association, or a Grocery Retailer.

**Direct relative is defined as an aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, child or stepchild, sibling or grandchild.*



CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS:

GENERAL EDUCATION:

Any graduating high school student who is entering or continuing to College, Trade School, or Technical School.

ADVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS:

Awarded to individuals who have overcome personal adversities, or exhibit unusual needs, and have demonstrated admirable gains in academic standings.

GRADUATE PROGRAM:

Current or incoming students with one or more years of graduate work remaining, or adults looking to return to graduate school to further their careers.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

Students applying to a 2-year community college or applying to start the Retail Management Certificate program.

RETAIL MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM GRADUATES:

Students that have completed the RMCP and are applying to a community college or university to continue their education within the food industry.

DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

Once a recipient has been selected and completed the acceptance protocol, the award will be sent by check payable to the student's school of choice and mailed directly from ISTS to the recipient. The check will be mailed from ISTS no later than **July 26, 2027**.

The Funds will be applied against the recipient's educational expenses for tuition, fees, books, etc.

Funds must be used within a 12-month period from the date announced.

**Illuminators Educational
Foundation...**
INSPIRED BY EXCELLENCE

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE IEF.



—Foundation—

**CAROLE CHRISTIANSON
TRUST**



MICKIE & MIKE VILLANUEVA



IEF MISSION STATEMENT

The Illuminators Educational Foundation provides college scholarships to further the education of members and families of the Illuminators, Western Association of Food Chains, and the California Grocers Association.

Illuminators Educational Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that supports educational aspirations for students who want to further their education.



SCAN ME

**ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
STARTING SEPTEMBER 14, 2026
FINAL SUBMISSION DATE:
MARCH 8, 2027**

**Go to: <https://aim.applyists.net>
PROGRAM KEY: ILLUMINATORS**