

2016  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

SISTERS

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Growing Funds for Growing Futures

# GRADUATE RESOURCE ORGANIZATION



**MISSION STATEMENT:**

To help Sisters High School graduates achieve their educational aspirations, inspiring them to *give back* by *becoming more*.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2016 is the ninth year of Sisters Graduate Resource Organization's (Sisters GRO) service to Sisters. In that time we have awarded nearly \$625,000 to 241 Sisters High School (SHS) graduates. Over the nine years we have achieved a 52% increase in the number of scholarships available; a 25% increase in the number of students receiving awards; and a 60% increase in dollars awarded. As SHS seniors departed this June, 43 (of 127 grads) were awarded local scholarships amounting to \$127,550. We salute our wonderful community for its generosity!

The success that we have attained is a direct result of citizens who believe that a community becomes more vibrant when it fosters the dreams, ambitions and goals of its young people. We thank you for your support of Sisters GRO, the only non-profit in the community focused solely on creating opportunities for planning and financial support of SHS graduates' futures. It is a pleasure to work with each of you to provide our youth with tools and financial support as they plan for and embark on hopeful futures reflecting their dreams.

The ASPIRE program (Access to Student Assistance Programs in Reach of Everyone) at SHS is integral to our mission. Special thanks to The Roundhouse Foundation which provided a matching grant of \$5,000 to Sisters GRO for funding much needed additional support to enhance the program and to those donors who contributed to the ASPIRE matching grant. We appreciate, depend on and recognize the over 35 dedicated ASPIRE mentors who share their caring guidance with juniors and seniors.

Sisters GRO is positioned to strategically plan for the next five years. Our passion motivates us to continue to accomplish new goals. Our goals for this year include

- Increasing scholarship applicant numbers to 65%
- Increasing scholarship support for students regardless of their paths (4 year college-bound or Career and Technical Education (CTE))

Please join us in embracing the potential of our youth by helping us reach our goals. Here are ways you can help:

- Establish a scholarship in honor or memory of a family member.
- Create a scholarship in a field or trade you find important.
- Donate to Sisters GRO Endowment for Dreams fund at Oregon Community Foundation.
- Donate to support Sisters GRO annual administrative expenses.
- Make a donation pledge and/or incorporate a donation in your will or trust.
- Volunteer to help as a SHS ASPIRE mentor or offer your time and expertise to assist with our mission...

Thank-you for helping us make a difference for Sisters community and our students!

Sincerely,

*Karen*

Karen Hensley  
Interim President and Co-founder



Karen Hensley  
Interim President



## GRO HISTORY

Sisters GRO was founded as a 501(c)(3) organization in 2008 to offer assistance and administrative support of the scholarship process to Sisters High School graduates. There has been a long history of support for higher education in the Sisters community, but prior to 2008, no central non-profit entity to collect, disburse and account for scholarship funds. GRO has worked with SHS and donors to develop an online standard application process as well as a donor and student/parent website for scholarship information ([shs.ssd6.org](http://shs.ssd6.org); Sisters GRO tab from homepage).

We have established an Endowment for Dreams fund with the Oregon Community Foundation; developed a fair, streamlined scholarship application process meeting IRS requirements; and worked with donors to establish lasting relationships to help them support our graduates in pursuing whatever path they choose post-high school: two-and-four years college, Career Technical Education, “real-life” job internships, military and other areas of endeavor. We are the only non-profit in the community focused solely on the development of financial support for Sisters High School graduates in these areas.

GRO now manages 34 local scholarships available to SHS graduates. Beginning in 2009, we awarded \$71,325 to 26 student recipients; in 2016, we awarded \$106,750

to 34 recipients. Since our inception, we have distributed, through GRO-managed scholarships, \$624,150 to 214 graduating students. We are proud of our community and our donors, our schools and our students, and with your help, hope to continue to support and broaden their horizons in years to come.

Sisters GRO has always had strong ties to the ASPIRE program (Access to Student Assistance Programs in Reach of Everyone). Many of our founding members have a history as ASPIRE mentors. ASPIRE is an Oregon State resource that matches adult volunteer mentors with high school students to develop a plan to meet their goals beyond high school. We continue to work closely with ASPIRE in developing ways to better serve our graduates in pursuing their goals.

### 2016 SISTERS GRO BOARD

**Karen Hensley** *Interim President & Co-Founder*

**Ann Thompson** *Secretary & Co-Founder*

**Patrick Hartman** *Treasurer*

**Joe Hosang** *SHS Principal*

**Rick Kroytz** *SHS ASPIRE Site Coordinator*

**Charlie Kanzig** *SHS Counselor*

**Russ Hamm** *Board Member*

**Pamela Olivier** *Board Member*

**Susan Parker** *Board Member*

**Tim Ross** *Board Member*



# Making a Difference

Sisters GRO Scholarship Recipients



## Justine Bruguier

I have so much appreciation for Black Butte Ranch and the SHS Visual Arts community who awarded me scholarships my senior year in High School. Receiving these awards not only impacted me financially but they brought me so much confidence as an artist and my career plans moving forward. I am now in my senior year in college at Southern Oregon University and often think back to my high school years and all of the encouragement that was given to me from the school's faculty. When I applied for the Black Butte Scholarship and the SHS Visual Arts Scholarship, it was one of the first times that I ever had to prepare a portfolio and present it to a group of people and it was a wonderful learning experience. I am excited for what the future holds and I owe a lot of that to the community of Sisters, soon I hope to come back and impact others the way that Sisters impacted me.

Thank you all so much for the encouragement and support.



Justine Bruguier  
Senior at Southern Oregon University

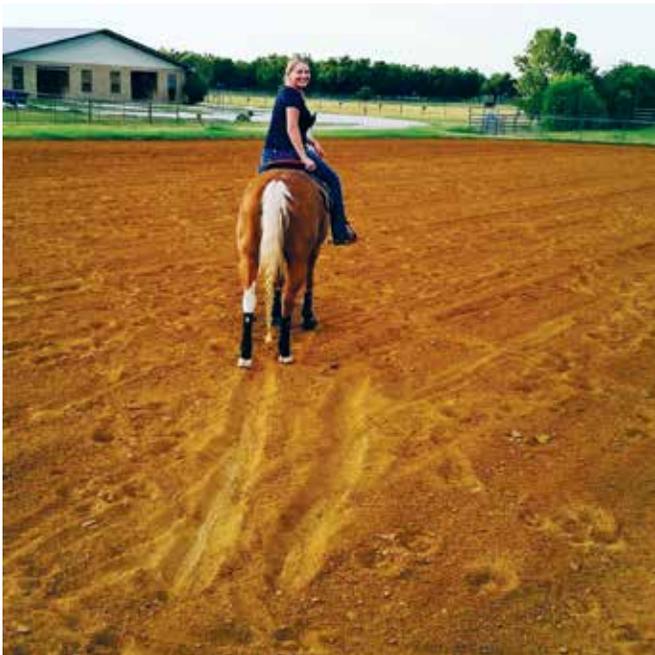
Scholarships awarded:  
Black Butte Ranch and SHS Visual Arts

School: Southern Oregon University

## Mackenzie Gellings

I received the GRO scholarship after graduating from Sisters High School in 2011. I had been accepted into the Honors Scholars program, majoring in Animal Science, at Oregon State University for the fall of 2011 and I was dead set on becoming an Equine Veterinarian.

When I first received the Ponderosa Heating and Cooling scholarship I didn't really understand the impact it would have on my education; but a little over a year into my degree program I realized how important it was. I decided that I no longer could see myself pursuing a career in Veterinary Medicine, that my passion lay in a different area. It was a very stressful decision to reroute the progress I had made so far, but I decided to change my focus to Animal Reproduction. This was the by far the best decision I ever could have made and the GRO scholarship helped me to make it.



Mackenzie Gellings  
Assistant Breeding Manager at Sterling Ranch USA

So many students become so stressed about the financial aspect of college. They rush through a degree program that they might not even enjoy because paying for college is so expensive! Forbes reported that the average student graduating in 2016 will leave with over 30,000 dollars in debt. The idea of changing your course work requirements with the dollar signs that are attached is extremely stressful. However, because of the GRO scholarship I was able to make the decision that ultimately led me to being in the career I am most passionate about.

Fast forward to September 2016. I worked three out of my four years of college and with the help of the GRO scholarship, which was distributed in \$1,000 each year for 4 years, I was able to graduate debt free in June of 2015. I spent some time back in Sisters after graduation and then, on a whim, applied for an internship in Texas at one of the most prestigious equine breeding facilities in the US. In January of this year I packed up my Jeep and made the 2,000 mile journey to a state I'd never been in to start working towards my dream job.

I am now the Assistant Breeding manager at Sterling Ranch USA, in charge of the care and maintenance of over 100 of the best horses in the reining horse industry. I foal out and raise babies that will go on to hopefully win national championships and hundred of thousands of dollars and make their own individual marks on the industry that I love. I am working towards the dream job I didn't believe was in my reach and I will never be able to thank the Sisters Community enough for helping make it possible.

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Scholarship awarded:  
Ponderosa Heating and Cooling

School: Oregon State University





# Making a Difference

## Sisters GRO Scholarship Recipients



Nicky Blumm  
Senior at Claremont-McKenna College

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Scholarship awarded:  
Stewart and Valerie Weitzman

School: Claremont-McKenna College

### Nicky Blumm

Nicky Blumm graduated from SHS in 2013. He was awarded the Stewart and Verle Weitzman Scholarship and is completing a double major in Philosophy and Government at Claremont-McKenna College in Claremont, California. Nicky is a senior planning to graduate in May of 2017 and has worked diligently to maintain a stellar GPA while taking advantage the educational opportunities offered at Claremont-McKenna.

Nicky's most recent update is worth sharing. In March, he was elected President of his student government. Assuming this honored position means he is the CEO of a 501(c)(3) corporation called ASCMC (Associated Students of Claremont-McKenna College). Nicky manages an Executive Board of over twenty officers and an annual budget in excess of \$350,000. As a recognized leader among his peers, Nicky was also selected as the National West Coast Regional Advisor to the It's On Us Campaign, a White House based initiative to combat sexual assault on college campuses. Another gratifying and life-changing college experience for Nicky was spending this past summer in Thailand doing research on changing gender roles, hyper-masculinity and human trafficking. About the experience, Nicky said, "It was absolutely eye-opening, heart-wrenching and truly shocking. I am a changed person having returned to the States."

Although Nicky doesn't have specific plans post-graduation now, he is in the application process for some consulting and marketing positions, in addition to exploring fellowship options. He hopes, "Someday someone will decide they'd like to hire me." Eventually Nicky thinks he will attend law school.

Nicky is grateful for the generous support of his education through the Stewart and Verle Weitzman Scholarship and the activities of the Sister GRO Board. Offering financial aid during a time where he was deciding whether to push himself to a top-ranked liberal arts school made a significant impact on his decision, and has formatively and positively influenced not only his college experience, but his life.



# DONOR TESTIMONIES

**SisTech Manufacturing**, based in Bend, Oregon, provides contract electronic manufacturing and mechanical assembly services to high technology companies. They have over 30 years of experience in high-tech assembly, design review, purchasing, project management, and order fulfillment. SisTech's customers include a variety of small local, large national corporations and even some rapidly growing startups.

The owners, Brad and Lorraine (Lori) Kennedy, who reside in Sisters and felt a need to give back to the community and support further education, established two new scholarships in 2015. The SisTech Manufacturing Inc. Engineering Scholarship awards \$8,000 to one graduate pursuing a mechanical or electrical engineering degree. It is disbursed over four years and requires a minimum GPA. Through the SisTech Manufacturing Inc. General Scholarship the Kennedys award \$1,000 to two graduates enrolled in either a 4 year degree or Career and Technical Education programs.

Brad and Lori shared that as a manufacturer in the fast-paced high-tech industry, they recognize a need to further education in a field as diverse as engineering. They would like to encourage youth to seek out education offering so much opportunity in the ever-changing world of technology. High-tech industry businesses rely on engineers for their employee pool

however their business depends on non-technical workers as well. That is why Brad and Lori choose to support two graduates through the General scholarship each year.

The Kennedys agree that it was very satisfying to hear from Sisters GRO that Rory Petterson's, (Brigham Young University), and Halley Chance's (Linfield College) scholarship awards had already been disbursed. The Kennedy's felt a deep sense of gratification knowing they are providing deserving students with assistance in furthering their education and reaching for their dreams.

They appreciated that Sisters GRO guided them through the scholarship establishment process with ease, and assisted with establishing criteria that honors their intentions of support for these scholarships.



Brad Kennedy, Vice President and Founder SisTech Manufacturing, Inc.



Zoe Willitts, owner Shibui Spa

The **Shibui Scholarship** was started in 2015 to continue giving back to our incredible community and school district here in Sisters. We had two children attend school here and have always been inspired by the level of personal and community involvement. Our family businesses of Five Pine Lodge and Shibui Spa have benefited from the community in general, but especially having students work at both facilities.

The scholarship initially was going to be established for students wanting to get into the health field, but as I understood more about the needs of individual students, I could see that a more general scholarship would be appropriate. We will continue to add to this scholarship annually as I've seen first hand the gratitude expressed from the students who received it.

Thank you to the GRO community for such an incredible job they do to benefit these students.

# 2016 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

SCHOLARSHIP	RECIPIENT	AWARD	SCHOOL ATTENDING
Black Butte Ranch Art Guild	Tully Henderson	\$3,000	Central Oregon Community College Oregon State University
	Kayla Neil	\$1,000	
	Isabelle Tara	\$2,000	
Dominic Fouts Student-Athlete	Jadon Bachtold Michaela Miller	\$2,500 \$2,500	Whitman College California Baptist University
Endeavor Chase Scholarship	Bethany Bachmeier	\$14,000	Oregon State University
Gordon & Helen Doke Memorial	Nina Horner	\$1,000	
Green Ridge Physical Therapy Health & Wellness	Shayla Curtis	\$1,500	Southern Oregon University
Jim Gentry Memorial	Megan Calarco	\$750	Oregon State University Southern Oregon University Brigham Young University University of Portland
	Shayla Curtis	\$750	
	Rory Peterson	\$750	
	Mary Stewart	\$750	
Michael B Ilg Character	Alena Nore	\$2,500	Grinnell College
Nugget Newspaper Student of the Year	Allie Spear	\$2,000	Concordia University - Portland
Outlaw Booster Club Spirit	Elizabeth Ausman Rory Petterson	\$500	University of Idaho Brigham Young University
		\$500	
Peg Bermel Friends of the Sisters Library	Izaak Kanzig	\$2,000	University of Oregon
Ponderosa Heating and Cooling	Bethany Bachmeier	\$1,000	Oregon State University
Shibui	Mykalia Hartman Anayancin Ortega	\$1,000	Central Oregon Community College Central Oregon Community College
		\$1,000	
SHS Character	Megan Ellsworth	\$500	Santa Fe University of Art & Design
SHS Visual Arts	Alena Nore	\$500	Grinnell College
SisTech Mfg. Engineering	Rory Petterson	\$8,000	Brigham Young University
SisTech Mfg. General	Chance Halley Rory Petterson	\$1,000	Linfield College Brigham Young University
		\$1,000	
Sisters Chamber of Commerce	Chance Halley Anayancin Ortega	\$500	Linfield College Central Oregon Community College
		\$500	
Sisters Folk Festival American - Performing Arts	Megan Ellsworth Nina Horner	\$2,000	Santa Fe University of Art & Design
		\$1,000	
Sisters Folk Festival American - Visual Arts	Kayla Neil	\$1,000	Oregon State University
Sisters GRO Endowment for Dreams	Margaret Bidasolo	\$1,000	
Sisters GRO Pegasus	Macadia Calavan	\$250	George Fox University University of Oregon
	Ellen Chandler	\$250	
	Michael Commins	\$250	Central Oregon Community College
	Sierra Hummel	\$250	
	Dallas Knoop	\$250	
Sisters Kiwanis Glenn Keeran Award	Taylor Eagan	\$2,000	Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Oregon Institute of Technology
	Jackson Morgan	\$3,000	
Sisters Kiwanis	Jadon Bachtold	\$1,500	Whitman College Oregon State University Dartmouth College Western Oregon University Oregon State University University of Oregon
	Megan Calarco	\$1,500	
	Tara Greaney	\$2,500	
	Patrick Krevi	\$1,500	
	Emma Tara	\$500	
	Danika Wagner	\$500	
Sisters Rodeo Association	Elizabeth Ausman Hannah Ceciliani Olivia Watts	\$2,500	University of Idaho Southern Oregon University Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
		\$2,500	
		\$2,500	
Stewart & Verle Weitzman	Jadon Bachtold Mary Stewart	\$12,500	Whitman College University of Oregon
		\$12,500	
Veteran's Appreciation	Izaak Kanzig	\$1,000	University of Oregon
Wayne & Irene Hensley Memorial	Tessa O'Hern	\$1,000	

# Profit & Loss

July 2015 through June 2016  
(unaudited)

<b>INCOME</b>		
ASPIRE Funding		\$20,000
Contributed Support		
Scholarship contributions	\$107,777	
General contributions	\$10,697	
Amazon Smile contribution	\$27	\$118,501
Total Contributed Support		\$138,501
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>\$138,501</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>		
ASPIRE Program		\$21,258
Board Director & Officers		
Liability Insurance		\$811
Business Expenses		
Taxes - other	\$92	
Publications and postage	\$239	
Professional fees	\$1,060	
Miscellaneous	\$234	\$1,625
Total Business Expenses		
Scholarships (Disbursed)		\$100,975
Senior Celebration Expenses		\$901
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$125,570</b>
Net Ordinary Income		\$12,931
Other Income/Expense		
Interest Income	\$103	
Total Other Income	\$103	
Net Other Income		\$103
<b>NET INCOME</b>		<b>\$13,034</b>

# Balance Sheet

July 2015 through June 2016

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Bank of Cascades Money Market	\$79,509
Cash in bank - Bank of Cascades Checking	\$74,767
Total Checking/Savings	\$154,276
Other Current Assets	
Bank of Cascades CD	\$25,734
Notes/Loans receivables	\$500
Total Other Current Assets	\$26,234
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$180,510</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Current Equity	
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets (undisbursed scholarships)	\$164,137
Total Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$164,137
Unrestricted (retained earnings)	\$3,337
Unspent ASPIRE Funds	\$2
Net Income	\$13,034
Total Equity	\$156,559
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$180,510</b>





## WHEN YOU STEP IN... A STUDENT STEPS UP!

As costs for higher education soar, our SHS grads confront financial challenges that may derail or delay their futures.

Simply, college or technical training costs more than they and their families can afford.

Unfortunately, without that education they are locked out of most family-sustaining jobs that demand education beyond high school. Candidly, the investment in higher education makes an enormous and life-long difference! According to a national report by the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (sheeo.org), high school graduates earn an average of less than \$30,000 per year. Bachelor's graduates earn an average of just over \$50,000 a year translating into a significant earnings gap over one's life. It really does pay to go to college!

We would love to have you work with us to create more needed gifts and scholarships! Even a modest gift will make a difference as you help SistersGRO address the funds-gap that some students face. With the generous help of the Sisters community over eight years we (and you) have stepped in to help nearly 220 students with almost 350 awards totaling more than \$600,000! Yes, we have more

to do and require more financial help. If you have an interest and believe in the importance of helping young people step up to learn more here is how you might close the cost gap:

- Donate to SistersGRO Endowment for Dreams Scholarship
- Donate to one of our existing scholarships
- Make a donation or pledge and/or incorporate a donations into your will or trust
- Volunteer to help us on our Board or one of your award committees

Here is another thought: help a student discover and pursue your passion! A gift or scholarship to one or two students may help lead them toward studying a field or interest that is or has been your life's interest and profession and one you want to push a student toward. Engineering, art, music, accounting, a trade or craft... anything? You may designate an award that will be used to learn about and pursue a specific interest.



Thanks to The Roundhouse Foundation for its \$10,000 grant to Sisters GRO for year three of the "Enrichment Experience Scholarship" project. We are grateful that The Roundhouse

Foundation has chosen Sisters GRO to oversee this remarkable project. The scholarship opportunity enables recipients, Grade 9-12, to attend a class, camp or seminar which will help them explore their interests and ultimately attain their long-term goals. This reflects the commitment to education that Sisters GRO fosters; it is another rewarding path to helping our students. The Enrichment Experience Scholarship details, criteria and application are available on the Sisters GRO web site. This year a grant has been awarded to offer scholarships to SMS students grade 5-8. Application will be on the SMS website or contact Michele Hammer at SMS.



### Sisters GRO and SHS ASPIRE Program

Sisters GRO has strong ties to the SHS ASPIRE program; in fact six board members have a history as ASPIRE mentors or administrators. ASPIRE (Access to Student Assistance Programs in Reach of Everyone), an Oregon State resource, is a mentoring program that matches trained adult volunteer mentors with high school students to develop a plan to help them meet their education goals beyond high school and to help students explore college options, admissions, and financial aid options. In past years approximately 35 SHS ASPIRE volunteers mentor approximately 230 juniors and seniors each year.



GRADUATE RESOURCE ORGANIZATION

Sisters Graduate Resource Organization recognizes that a vibrant community fosters the dreams, ambitions and goals of its young people.

We are dedicated to the growth of our community's future by championing post-high school education through scholarships and graduate support programs. By investing in Sisters graduates, we invest in our community.

**Thank you for your support!**

P. O. Box 1546 • Sisters, OR 97759-1546  
information@sistersgro.com  
SistersGRO.com



**DONATION FORM FOR SISTERS GRO**

I am enclosing a tax-deductible donation to Sisters GRO.

- \$25     \$50     \$100     \$250     \$500     Other \_\_\_\_\_

I am pledging a monthly tax-deductible donation to Sisters GRO.

- \$25     \$50     \$100     \$250     \$500     Other \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in setting up a named or endowed scholarship through Sisters GRO.  
Please contact me.

Please contact me about volunteer opportunities in Sisters GRO.

**You may donate by mail or through our website at sistersgro.com**  
Sisters GRO is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_