



Yonsei Basketball Association 2021 Scholarships

Yonsei Basketball Association is once again proud to continue a long standing commitment to support academic achievement and community service involvement of the youth of our communities. It is so encouraging to see the number of graduating seniors who have demonstrated excellence in both areas. It is with great pleasure that Yonsei honors the following four high achieving, involved, talented and promising high school graduates.

Frank Kiyomura Founder's Scholarship: Jillian Mia Yamada

Jillian is the daughter of Janice and Jason Yamada. She will be entering UCLA this fall after graduating from Palo Verdes Peninsula High School. She will be majoring in Psychology and hopes to become a Child Life Specialist.

Jillian has been the recipient of numerous distinguished awards from Palos Verdes Peninsula High, the National Merit Scholarship Program, California Scholarship Federation, and Las Hermanas Aquamarine Volunteer Service Organization. She has been active in and feels most connected to F.O.R. G-Force, Palos Verdes Peninsula High School Girls' Varsity Teams (both Basketball & La Crosse, The Best Buddies Club, Las Hermanas Aquamarine Service Group, H.O.P.E. (Helping Our Planet Everyday) Service Group, Press Friends, Family Promise, Team A.E.I.C.(Advocating for Empowerment and Inclusion in Communities). She has also been scorekeeper and referee for South Bay Youth Basketball League

She is proudest of her efforts to create Team A.E.I.C (Advocating for Empowerment and Inclusion in Communities) and partnering with the Ability First Facility in Long Beach, which supports developmentally disabled youth, where they exceeded their goal of collecting \$4,500 to support the program through building a website and tapping into their networks and local businesses. It was a very rewarding experience to visit the facility and spend time with the members, see their smiling faces, which reminded her of the need and focus of their project which has motivated her to continue advocating for them.

Sue Kamiyama Memorial Scholarship: Kiley Murakami

Kiley is the daughter of Lisa and Steven Murakami. She graduated from Oxford Academy in Cypress and will be attending the University of California, Berkeley, where she will major in Molecular and Cell Biology. She plans to pursue a career as a health professional.

Kiley played SEYO basketball for eleven years, including seven years with the Wintersburg organization. She also played on her school's varsity basketball team. For thirteen years, Kiley was active in Girl Scouts at the Orange County Buddhist Church. Additionally, she dedicated her time as an officer in the Orange Coast Optimist Youth Club and participated in the Rising Stars Youth Leadership Program. Her involvement within the basketball community grew as she interned for Not Your Average Basketball Camp and volunteered as a coach for the Norwalk Rascals clinics.

Among her many accomplishments, she is most proud of her involvement on a team research project as a student in the UC San Diego Molecular Biology Research Immersion Program. Her project entailed the analysis of gene expression in organisms under environmental stress. She hopes to further this interest by conducting scientific research in college.

Changes in the Community (CITC) and Changes/Changing the Community Together Scholarship: Katelyn Ikemoto

Katelyn (Katie) is the daughter of Teiko & Klete Ikemoto. She has graduated from Yorba Linda High School and will be attending USC in the fall where she plans to major in Communication. Her goal is to pursue Creative Directing, Marketing, or a profession in Entertainment/Media.

She was Girls Team Captain on the Yonsei 24 team that went to Matsue and has been involved with Orange County Buddhist Church(OCBC)/OCBC Jr. YBA, Norwalk Youth Sports (NYS)/Southeast Japanese School and Community Center(SEJSCC), Yorba Linda High School Varsity Women's Basketball, Yorba Linda High School Clubs (CALL Club, NHS, CSF), and Kizuna

Katelyn is most proud of being able to participate in different activities and leadership roles for different organizations during high school. She enjoyed the work and took a special interest in those opportunities. Volunteering with Kizuna summer camp or creating OCBC's "Obon At Home" allowed her to develop new skills and find her passions. She is most proud of the opportunity to continue her education at USC as a Trustee Scholar, knowing her Trojan dad, Bruin mom, and family are proud.

Amnet Scholarship: Alyssa Miyamoto

Alyssa is the daughter of Julie and Mica Miyamoto. She has graduated from La Canada High School and will be attending Cornell University this fall with a major in Human Biology, Health and School. She plans to minor in Applied Exercise Science and hopes to become a sports medicine physician so she can help athletes in injury treatment and prevention.

Alyssa is a National Merit Scholarship Commended Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, earned the Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish, and was a member of both Science National Honor Society and National Honor Society.

She has been playing JAO Basketball with the Pasadena Bruins since the first grade and has played on her high school varsity basketball team for the last 3 years serving as co-captain in her senior year. She also served as the Athletic Leadership Council Girls Basketball Representative.

Alyssa's service in the community includes Coaching for the Pasadena Bruins Pee-Wee Clinic, She earned the Girl Scouts Bronze, Silver and Gold Award, has volunteered as a Girl Scout Day camp Counselor and has been a member of Assisteens of La Cañada Flintridge, serving as Infant Blanket Chair and Donation Bag Chair. She was also project coordinator for a group known as Girls Who Code.

She is most proud of having earned the Girl Scout Gold Award for her work with the Pasadena Boys and Girls Club where she introduced kids to different cultures through crafts, food, and live demonstrations. She successfully took the lead in organizing and implementing each step, from scheduling with community leaders to buying and prepping the craft supplies, to presenting the information in a fun and engaging way.

We wish all of the Yonsei scholarship recipients the very best and look forward to their future contributions to society and our communities.