



Scholarship Committee

Monterey County High School Graduating Class of 2017

Thanks to the generous donations from our members and local businesses, WNLRL gave away over \$10,000 in scholarship awards to outstanding track and cross country student-athletes in Monterey County's High School Graduating Class of 2017. To receive this award, eligible student-athletes must have some of the most competitive track and cross country times in Monterey County, must have a GPA of at least 3.0, must demonstrate good character and leadership qualities as described in a letter of recommendation by a coach or teacher, must be actively involved in community service, and may demonstrate financial need. The eligible student-athlete intends to run competitively at the collegiate level.

This year, nine award winners were chosen from a county-wide pool of eligible student-athletes. Many of these student-athletes you can find running local races.

<u>Name</u>	<u>High School</u>
Evelin Meza	Greenfield
Roman Muñoz	King City
Kayla Clayton	Salinas
Jesus Avalos	King City
Alfredo Mejia	Salinas
Isaias Rodriguez	Seaside
Jorge Rodriguez	Alisal
Anna Stefanou	Pacific Grove

Best Overall Female
Evelin Meza, Greenfield High School



For every distance over 800 meters, Evelin is this year's outstanding female athlete. Her league- and school-record-setting track and cross country times, as well as her academic performance (3.94 GPA), superb traits as a role model, and commitment to her team's success are nothing short of brilliant, and these combined qualities make her a stellar all-around candidate for this scholarship. As one of the top runners in the entire Central Coast Cross Country Section (CCS), we are proud to recognize Evelin for all of her accomplishments. In addition to exceptional academic and athletic success, Evelin is also a member of Greenfield High Schools Physics Club, Book Club, College Club, and Volleyball Team. Evelin will use her WNLR scholarship to assist with her academic and athletic pursuits at San Jose State in Fall of 2017.

Best Overall Male
Roman Muñoz, King City High School



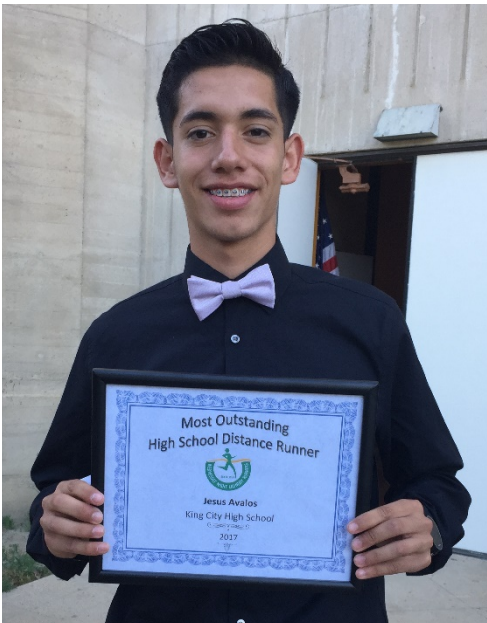
An outstanding young man with excellent character and leadership skills – not to mention some of the best track and cross country times at the MTAL (Mission Trail Athletic League), CCS (Central Coast Section) and State-wide levels – Roman Muñoz is the top male WNLR scholarship recipient for the Monterey County Graduating Class of 2017. Some of Roman's best running times include a 15:36 at the Woodward Park 5k state-wide cross-country meet, as well as 4:17 in the 800m as only a sophomore. His athletic achievements have steadily grown throughout his High School career, setting-up a trajectory for further athletic success at the collegiate level. Roman starts his collegiate career in a 2-year program intending to transition to a more intensive Mechanical Engineering or Business Studies career path.

**Outstanding Female Student-Athlete
Kayla Clayton, Salinas High School**



With a blisteringly-fast set of race times as the overall Monterey Bay League 2016 Cross Country Champion and a leadership profile to back it all up, Kayla Clayton has secured a WNLR scholarship and recognition as one of Monterey County's top female track and cross country student-athletes. Her personal and athletic growth are punctuated by her consistent dedication to cross-sport participation and incorporation of lifestyle adjustments to maintain her edge at or near the top of the pack, whether that pack be athletic or academic. Kayla is a driven individual who is focused on improving her running career while advancing her education. With an exceptional 4.3 GPA, Kayla will attend Portland State University in Fall of 2017 and will run competitively with their Cross Country team.

**Outstanding Male Student-Athlete
Jesus Avalos, King City High School**



An exceptional runner and teammate to our top male recipient, Jesus Avalos secured a WNLR scholarship for his outstanding track and cross country performances throughout his high school career. Jesus Avalos has established himself as an exceptional Monterey County student athlete by securing a spot as an All-MTAL (Mission Trail Athletic League) athlete in two consecutive years and by finishing 9th overall in the CCS (Central Coast Section) Championships. In addition to these achievements, he has stepped into leadership roles whenever necessary, gracefully filling-in the role for those who needed it. Jesus will run competitively for Monterey Peninsula College in Fall of 2017, where he will start to build-up the credits needed to pursue his goal of becoming a Computer Engineer.

Outstanding Male Student-Athlete Alfredo Mejia, Salinas High School



With extremely competitive 5k times (16:39 on the Natividad Creek course and 16:48 at the Woodward Park course in Fresno) and impressive track times for the 800m, 1600m, and 3200m, Alfredo Mejia is the proud recipient of one of WNLN's scholarship awards for the 2017 academic year. Alfredo's coach, Roger Chagnon, considers Alfredo to be a dedicated athlete who "shows a passion to want to be the best" and who is "always looking to do more... to help get him closer to his goals". It is this kind of dedication that we look for in our scholarship candidates. We are pleased to help Alfredo transition to a collegiate running career. His plans include starting at Hartnell College to ease his transition to collegiate life, and then transfer to either Humboldt or Chico State, both of which he has been accepted to.

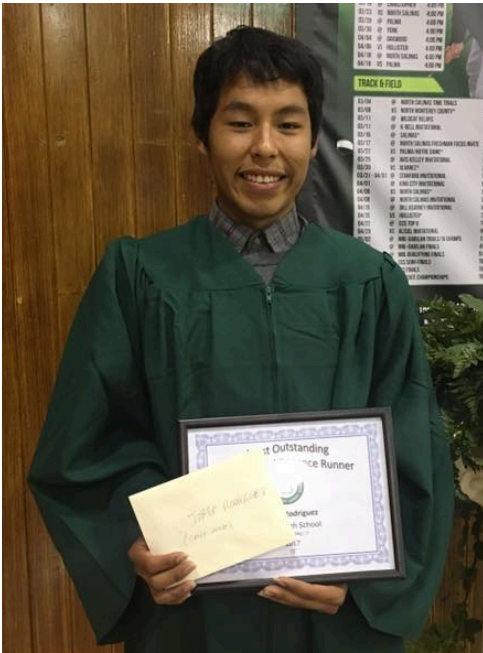
Outstanding Male Student-Athlete Isaias Rodriguez, Seaside High School



A track-athlete triple-threat (competitive at the 800m, 1600m, and 3200m distances), and one of the Monterey Bay League's best cross country athletes (6th place overall with a 5k time of 16:44), Isaias Rodriguez is the proud recipient of one of WNLN's outstanding student-athlete scholarships. Isaias is known to be driven and goal-oriented, and is the source of the inspirational quote that his coach Dwight Smith keeps on his whiteboard: "Running makes you a better person". Among other achievements, Isaias has been inducted into the National Honors Society, served as team captain for the Seaside soccer team in his Sophomore and Junior years (before deciding to focus solely on track and cross country), volunteers with local running organizations, assisted with the design and creation of a new cross country course for

Seaside High School, and continues to volunteer his time for more community-improvement efforts. Isaias will run competitively for Hartnell College in the Fall of 2017, with the goal of earning his certification to be a law enforcement official so he can continue to give back to and support his community.

Outstanding Male Student-Athlete Jorge Rodriguez, Alisal High School



With an exceptional 4.286 GPA (AP classes weight GPAs above the 4.0 threshold), 2017 Alisal High School Salutatorian Jorge Rodriguez is one of WNLR's outstanding student-athletes of the year. Starting high school as a short-distance track and field runner and only later transitioning to longer cross country distances, Jorge had shaved over 6 minutes off of his 5k race time by the end of his Senior year at Alisal High School in Salinas. He now specializes in the 3200 track event, with a personal record of 10:30 in the event. His coach Steven Muñoz speaks very highly of Jorge, pointing-out that Jorge is not just an academic or an athlete, but that Jorge is also an active member in many of Alisal's other extracurricular activities: Japanese Club, MESA Club (Math, Engineering, and Science Achievements), and Be Yourself Club. Jorge

will continue his running and academic career at Pomona College in the Fall of 2017 and will major in Computer Science.

Outstanding Female Student-Athlete Anna Stefanou, Pacific Grove High School



New to the California Central Coast, Anna Stefanou moved to Pacific Grove from Southern California as a Junior in High School and quickly established herself as a formidable track and cross country star and compassionate team captain. In her first season at Pacific Grove High School, Anna achieved All-MTAL (Mission Trail Athletic League) status and helped bring her team to a second place finish in the MTAL at the end of the season. In her senior year, she repeated a similar personal and team-wide success and also qualified for the CIF statewide cross country meet in Fresno – only the 6th female in Pacific Grove history to do so. With outstanding athletic achievements and exceptional academic performance (4.0 GPA), Anna will be attending Oregon State in the fall to study Kinesiology en-route to a career in physical therapy.



The purpose of the WNLRL Scholarship fund is to recognize local excellence in athletic and academic achievement and to help our Monterey County student athletes achieve broader success. We hope to continue using the WNLRL Scholarship Fund to ease the financial burden of college for exceptional Monterey County student-athletes who may otherwise find college prohibitively expensive. Your donations are welcome and encouraged.

For more information about the Wednesday Night Laundry Runner Scholarship Program, please visit www.wnlr.org

Special thanks go to Emily Cole, Mike Dove, Erin Golec, Rod Mackinlay, Patie McCracken, Cath Tandler-Valencia, Susan Walkup, and all of the Monterey County teachers and coaches for facilitating the nomination, interview, and decision-making process. Additional thanks goes to those committee members who attended High School award ceremonies to present each student-athlete with their award.