

Scholarship Program Newsletter | Summer 2025

A Message from the Shah Family Foundation & VE

Dear Scholarship Recipients,

As summer begins, we extend our heartfelt **congratulations** to the first cohort of our scholarship recipients:

- Lesley Bustamante, pursuing a career in Physical Therapy,
- Richie Magaribi, following his passion in Medicine, and
- Kayla Hua, aspiring Engineer.

You represent the spirit of determination and hope. Though you are pursuing your part, you always will be a part of our growing community—one rooted in personal growth, purpose, and lifelong learning.

We are equally thrilled to **welcome** the 2025 recipients of our scholarship: Gursahab Chadha, Sara Pardomuan, Kimberly Gregorio, and Jason Velasquez. Your journey is just beginning, and we're honored to support and walk alongside you.

We're excited to welcome Shenalee Kanthiarachchi, a sophomore at Fordham University, and Sara Pardomuan, a freshman at Cooper Union College, who have volunteered to help produce our eNewsletter. We look forward to their creativity, fresh perspectives, and enthusiasm. Welcome aboard!

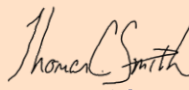
As summer unfolds, in this issue, Sara invites us to reflect on how we use this time through her essay, *"Summer with Purpose: A Life, Not a Number."* Her words remind us that personal growth doesn't pause when classes end—it thrives when we live with intention.

For our Fall issue, Shenalee will reflect on her educational journey, shaped by the Jesuit philosophy of *Cura Personalis*—care for the whole person. This philosophy aligns deeply with our mission to inspire total self-development: mind, body, and spirit.

To all of you: embrace this summer not just as a break, but as an opportunity to grow, to give, and to become more fully yourself.

Warm regards,


Deena & Pravin Shah
D & P Shah Family Foundation


Tom Smith
President & CEO, VE

Reflections for Success

*"Formal education will make you a living.
Self-education will make you a fortune."*

– Jim Rhone





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“Summer with Purpose: A Life, Not a Number”



Sara Pardomuan
Rising Freshman
Cooper Union

Whether you're finishing high school or starting college, summer isn't just a break—it's a chance to grow in new ways.

Some students spend summer working, saving, or supporting their families. Others travel, take classes, or start creative projects. However it looks, summer matters—not because it's filled with impressive achievements, but because of how it shapes us.

I used to believe every summer had to be packed with goals: internships, classes, new skills. We're often told to “get ahead.” But lately, I've realized growth doesn't always show up on a resume.

Last summer, after work, I'd walk home the long way—sometimes taking random buses, sometimes just wandering. I wasn't in a rush. I wasn't tracking time. And those quiet, unplanned moments? They stayed with me more than anything else I did.

This summer, I'm working again—showing up, learning discipline, and growing in small but meaningful ways. It's not glamorous, but it's real. I've learned to value the little wins: being on time, staying patient, and handling challenges with grace.

And when I'm not working, I try to be present. I walk. I exercise. I write just for myself. These simple moments help me reconnect with who I am, beyond grades or goals.

There's no one “right” way to spend a summer. Whether you're working, resting, exploring, or just figuring things out—you're learning. You're growing. And that counts.

So as we move through the season, remember: life isn't a number. It's built from small, meaningful experiences that shape who we're becoming.

**Congratulations to our first cohort of
graduating scholars & welcome to our
new 2025 scholarship recipients!**

Graduating Shah Scholars



Kayla Hua
Georgia Tech



Richie Magaribi
Lehman College



Lesley Bustamante
SUNY Geneseo

New 2025 Scholarship Recipients



Sara Pardomuan
Academy of Finance &
Enterprise



Gursahab Chadha
Francis Lewis HS



Kimberly Gregorio
Southold Jr/Sr HS



Jason Velasquez
Hempstead HS