

NEWS RELEASE

Central California Blood Center

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Central California Blood Center Awards \$10,000 in Scholarships to Students at Participating High Schools

Fresno, CA — The Central California Blood Center is proud to award a total of \$10,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors from local high schools that demonstrated an outstanding commitment to supporting the region’s blood supply during the 2025–2026 school year.

This marks the first year of the Central California Blood Center’s Student Scholarship Program, which recognizes students from schools that hosted two or more blood drives during the academic year, helping collect lifesaving blood donations for patients throughout Central California. Through the program, participating schools earned scholarship funding based on the number of successful blood donations collected at their campus blood drives.

This year, 15 local high schools qualified for scholarships ranging from \$250 to \$1,000 in the inaugural program. Schools selected the student recipients and presented the scholarships during senior awards ceremonies and special recognition events.

“Students and school communities play a vital role in helping maintain a stable blood supply for local hospitals,” said Christine Hayes, CEO of the Central California Blood Center. “We are honored to invest in the future of these student leaders while recognizing the lifesaving impact they have made through their commitment to hosting blood drives and encouraging donations.”

In addition to the Student Scholarship Program, the Central California Blood Center offers students other opportunities to be recognized for their commitment to saving lives. Through the Donor of Distinction Program, qualifying students are honored at graduation with a red cord that recognizes their dedication to supporting local patients and strengthening the community blood supply. Students can also earn Individual

Student Scholarships by organizing and hosting their own blood drives during winter and summer breaks, when blood donations historically decline due to weather, travel, and seasonal illness.

The Central California Blood Center established these programs to encourage student leadership, community service, and awareness of the ongoing need for blood donors. Scholarship funds are sent directly to recipients' accredited colleges, universities, or trade schools to support their continued education and career training.

The Central California Blood Center extends its gratitude to participating students, faculty advisors, school administrators, and volunteer blood donors whose collective efforts continue to save lives across the region.

For more information about hosting a school blood drive, participating in the scholarship program, or learning about student recognition opportunities, please e-mail studentprograms@donateblood.org.

About The Central California Blood Center

The Central California Blood Center serves as the region's vital source of lifesaving blood products, supporting 20 hospitals and healthcare partners throughout Fresno, Tulare, Madera, Kings, and Mariposa counties. Each day, hundreds of local patients depend on blood transfusions for emergency care, surgical procedures, and ongoing medical treatments. In critical moments, the blood readily available on our shelves can make all the difference. By donating, community members provide more than blood—they offer hope, healing, and a second chance to neighbors, friends, and families across the Central Valley. For more information, visit www.donateblood.org or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn for updates, donor stories, and opportunities to get involved.

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