

## **2024 ASF Scholarship Recipient Bios**

### **Adam Acuff**

According to teacher Marci Fankhauser, Adam's "infectious personality and smile make a difference at Anacortes High School." When he's not studying, he can be found volunteering at the Kiwanis Thrift Shop or enjoying one of his many hobbies: surfing, skating, biking, reading, hiking and writing. Next year, Adam heads to Western Washington University where he plans to major in business with the long-term goal of pursuing an MBA.

### **Adam Max**

Valedictorian Max Adam heads to the University of Utah to study mechanical engineering. Captain of the soccer team, Max strives to create innovative solutions to everyday problems. He enjoys woodworking, mountain biking, backpacking, mountaineering and making music. Teacher Jody Dylan describes Max as "driven and motivated with an eagerness to learn."

### **Lida Ahsaei**

Lida Ahsaei, who is trilingual in English, Bulgarian and Persian, will study architecture at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago next year. She is a member of the Superintendent's Budget Advisory Council and the Equity Council and, according to employer Mike Underwood, Lida has a strong work ethic, reliability and exhibits a rare combination of passion, talent and dedication."

### **Mila Ahsaei**

Traveling to Nicaragua to provide clean and safe water is what ignited Mila's passion for medicine. Specifically, observing surgeries in a small village hospital. Next year, Mila will study environmental science while completing a pre-med program at the University of Arizona, with the goal of contributing to the healthcare field as an anesthesiologist. Another of her major passions is dance – ballet for ten years and contemporary for two.

### **Niusha Ahsaei**

Niusha Ahsaei is equally comfortable on the stage or on "the pitch," having played soccer for six years, drama for six years, piano for 12 years and guitar for four years. She was also secretary of the Equity Council. Next year, Niusha enters the University of Arizona's School of Science and Honors program to study biochemistry.

### **Aleena Aipperspach**

Valedictorian Aleena Aipperspach's resume boasts involvement in almost everything: band (five years), soccer (four years), tennis (four years), Key Club and National Honor Society (three years) and one year of managing the wrestling team. Several semesters of metals class made her realize her love for building and creating projects. At the University of Washington, Aleena will study engineering in hopes of "making the fluidity of machinery better and positively affecting those around her."

**Alexus Andrade**

Hardworking. Reliable. Responsible. These are words teacher April Lyons uses to describe Alexis Andrade. What captivates Alexis is learning how life works. She wants to dig deeper to understand both people and the environment. She will take this curiosity to Skagit Valley College next year where she will study science.

**Colin Bielitz**

Colin's love for the outdoors is what inspired him to pursue a degree in environmental science at the University of Victoria. Hiking, fishing and hunting are his passions outside of school. During the school year, he also spent a great deal of time lifting weights for football and wrestling, which taught him a discipline that he can use throughout life. So it's no surprise that strength and conditioning teacher Scott Dickison describes Colin as "motivated, focused and passionate."

**Tierney Boland**

Tierney Boland's "strengths of motivation, patience and thoughtfulness contributed so much to the well-being of others," says teacher Kay Bacetich. She loves participating in Skills USA Club, so much so that she served as president for three years. She was also a member of Link Crew and Key Club. Next year, Tierney will attend University of St. Thomas in Minnesota.

**Darren Bunker**

Darren Bunker enjoys science, math and music. He's been in band for seven years and on the soccer and swim and dive teams, each for three years. He earned Most Improved in swim and Hardest Worker in band. Band director Chris Dyel says Darren "leads his teammates with a positive and inspiring attitude." He plans to study engineering at Western Washington University next year.

**Amelia Burrus**

A College Board AP Scholar, Ameila Burrus also earned a Summa Cum Laude award for the National Latin Exam and was a student delegate for Youth in Government. Her passions include sailing, the outdoors, music (band) and theatre. But her biggest love is learning. Inspired by the "physical world and the multitudes of complex systems it holds," she plans to major in astrophysics and minor in philosophy at the University of Georgia with a long-term goal of pursuing scientific innovation in medicine.

**Moss Caplinger**

When Moss goes to Western Washington University in the fall, they will begin a path to becoming an educator, most likely teaching drama or history. They realized their passion for teaching when they tutored middle school students during their sophomore year. Teacher Scott Burnett says that "Moss is very adaptive and improves every group of which they are a part."

**Jose Charnley**

Jose Charnley's "thirst to learn more about space" will hopefully be quenched when he embarks on his journey as a physics major at the University of Washington next year. By studying astrophysics, he will work toward his goal of being on the forefront of important discoveries. Eventually, he hopes to earn his doctorate and love what he does so much it will feel like a hobby, not work.

**Cody Cox**

Cody Cox has an "unflappable demeanor and a high emotional intelligence," says employer Megan Schorr. He was a member of the mountain bike team but also enjoys skimboarding and snowboarding. Next year, he will study economics at the University of Utah.

**Emily Cox**

Emily Cox has been to state as part of both the bowling team and the swim and dive team. She was also in the top ten at FBLA state competition. She was captain of the swim and dive team and business manager of FBLA. Teacher Scott Burnett says that Emily has a "deep reservoir of compassion" and has worked harder than any student in his 31-year career. She will use that compassion when she studies nursing at University of Portland in the fall.

**Emilie Cross**

Emilie Cross has always loved to help people. In fact, it gives her a sense of purpose. So it makes sense that when she's at Western Washington University next year, she'll study psychology in hopes of learning to understand the causes of mental health challenges and to be able to better support those who struggle. Tennis coach Jeff Leer says, "There is no quit in this young student-athlete," while teacher Michellel Hackstadt was impressed with Emilie's "grit and insight." Captain of the tennis team, Emilie was also a part of Green Club, Link Crew and National Honor Society.

**Blair Drew**

Her long time fascination with coding is the reason Blair Drew heads to University of Birmingham in the UK next fall. She has been accepted into the joint honor MSci degree of Mathematics with Computer Science. Her dream is to have a career as an AI software developer with an eventual PhD in computer science or mathematics from the University of Oxford.

**Joshua Fauver**

In addition to soccer – he played all four years of high school – Joshua enjoys boating, fishing and archery. He loves putting existing materials together to create something new. He also loves working on cars, including the 1948 Chevy he helped rebuild. This will all contribute to his success at Washington State University where he plans to study mechanical engineering.

**Kaya Fountain**

Kaya Fountain's ultimate goal is to make a difference to people. Her strength as a leader started early, as she created a mentorship project between ASB student leadership class and

elementary students. Teacher Spencer Andrich says the project left an “indelible mark” and “stands out as one of the best programs to come out of the class” in all his years of teaching. Kaya, a four-year tennis player, also has a passion for traveling and photography, which allows her “to have a wide view lens of the world while also having the ability to zoom in and appreciate the details.” Next year, Kaya will study business at Oregon State University.

### **Jocelyn Garner**

A native of Hawaii, Jocelyn Garner is no stranger to the water and has been swimming since she was four years old. In high school, she added tennis, art club and mental health awareness club to her repertoire. Teacher Ruth Masters says Jocelyn’s “great attitude, love of learning and personable nature remind her every day why she wants to be a teacher.” Next year at Western Washington University, Jocelyn will study biology with the goal of becoming a forensic science technician.

### **Bella Gentry**

When Bella Gentry steps foot onto the campus of California State University Chico, she will begin her journey towards a degree in psychology. In her desire to positively impact both her own community and underserved communities, her long term goal is to establish a private practice as a psychologist, specializing in child development and serving minority communities. Teacher Scott Burnett says of Bella, “She works well as a part of a team, as a subordinate and as a leader. There are very few students at this stage who are an asset in all three situations.”

### **Aaliyah Hall**

Aaliyah Hall has several passions including music, art, and teaching herself new things. She was part of FBLA, Art Club, Key Club and also participated in volleyball, track and field, and cross country. She is motivated by the idea of change and the idea of challenging boundaries. Combined with her love of art, it makes perfect sense that she will study architecture at Washington State University.

### **Rachel Hankey**

Rachel Hankey’s “commitment to understanding the world around her coupled with her genuine concern for both the human condition and the natural environment reflects a rare blend of empathy and intellectual curiosity,” says teacher Jessica Pullen. Rachel was involved in Broadcast Club, drama, music, and Green Club. She will take her curiosity to Seattle University where she is enrolled in the honors program, hoping to earn a double major in Spanish and International Studies.

### **Zach Harris**

Because Zach Harris wants to change the world for the better, he is seeking a career as an environmental lawyer. This will involve a Political Science/Pre-Law track at Colorado College next year. Zach was incredibly involved in school as team captain for the swim and dive team, junior class president, sophomore class secretary, and freshman class president. Teacher Brian Backman says he can think of “no student at AHS who is a better model for what it means to be both an excellent, hard-working student and an indefatigable contributor to our community.”

**Sofia Hernandez-Rodriguez**

Sofia Hernandez-Rodriguez received both the College Board National Rural and Small Town Recognition award and the College Board National Hispanic Recognition award. A member of the track and field and cross-country teams, Sofia also was part of Green Club and yearbook. At Western Washington University, she will pursue a degree in polymer materials engineering alongside environmental science. She's hoping to understand exactly how the environment is harmed and how it can be protected. She would also like to start a fabric recycling initiative.

**Ava Hightower**

ASB President Ava Hightower continues to feel drawn to leadership opportunities for the connections she makes with people and for the active changes she can contribute. A four-year tennis player, Ava also managed the boys' tennis team all four years. In addition, she was part of a competitive dance team in Skagit County for nine years. At the University of Washington she wants to deepen her understanding of the interconnections between the environment and humanity and how they impact on another. So she plans to study environmental science alongside political science and sustainability of communities and ecosystems.

**Keira Hines**

Valedictorian Keira Hines has a "scholar's mentality," according to teacher Scott Burnett. She is a National Merit Scholarship semi-finalist, a Wash. state Journalism Award for Excellence in Writing recipient, the Soroptimists Violet Richardson Award for Community Service recipient, the recipient of the Seal of Biliteracy, and a four-year golf player. Captivated by learning about government and politics, Keira worked as a page at the Washington State Senate, as well. Next year at Brown, she will major in mathematics and political science with the hope of becoming an environmental lawyer, and perhaps eventually going into politics in either the legislative or judicial branches.

**Wesley Hunter**

Superintendent Justin Irish says Wesley Hunter "consistently provides insightful perspectives and endeavors to create inclusive spaces and activities for all students, encouraging the establishment of clubs and initiatives that engage those who may feel underserved." Dr. Irish worked closely with Wesley during Wesley's two-year tenure as school board student representative. In addition, Wesley played soccer and ran cross-country for all four years of high school. His eyes have been opened to a world of teamwork, compassion and bravery through working alongside his father in the fire service. Next year, Wesley heads to the University of Washington to study marine science.

**Isabella Jacobson**

Isabella Jacobson is really a jack of all trades, especially manual ones. She has found a passion for manual labor from her time with family working on projects like building a deck, sheet rocking, laying flooring and digging trenches. The four-year soccer and track athlete plans to study biochemistry next year at the University of Washington and then eventually go on to help

others less fortunate than her either by going to med school, pursuing environmental studies or traveling the world educating younger generations.

### **Marin Jensen**

“Highly curious. A natural yet humble leader.” These are words counselor Kara Fox uses to describe Marin Jensen. Marin was a finalist for the 2023 NW Washington STEM Rising Star award and was the Program Manager of the FIRST Robotics team, putting in at least 400 hours, according to CTE Director Joe Furin. And while she has a passion for creative writing, she hopes to become a robotics engineer who can work on designing all terrain robots to explore potentially dangerous areas. She will begin this path next year as a mechanical engineer student at Washington State University.

### **Clara Jeong**

Art. Music. Leadership. Clara Jeong loves it all and has mastered it all. Leadership teacher Spencer Andrich calls Clara “a consummate professional, with a maturity level well beyond her years, who has been pivotal in using art to transform our school.” Clara has taught art lessons to children and has won numerous awards including the Governor’s Art Award, Champions of Diversity, Regional Solo and Ensemble Brass Group, and State Solo and Ensemble Brass Group. She also has a Seal of Literacy for English and Korean languages. Because she wants to help people heal, experience self-love, and establish stability in their lives, especially in underserved areas, Clara will study psychology next year when she arrives on the campus of University of Southern California.

### **Ruby Johnson**

Ruby Johnson’s ultimate goal is to concentrate on a field where she can support individual and global health. Helping others motivates her, but she also loves outdoor activities and hands-on projects. She considers herself very determined and enjoys making personal connections with her peers. In school, Ruby participated in Link Crew and soccer. Next year she will begin her studies at University of Idaho with a long-term goal of going into the field of medicine.

### **Chris Jolly**

Counselor Kara Fox describes Chris Jolly as “a driven and resilient young man.” One of the top ten academic students of his class, Chris was involved in Drawing Club, Key Club and National Honors Society and was a weekly volunteer at a dog daycare. He plans to study biology at Western Washington University with a long-term goal of studying medicine.

### **Aileen Kim**

Nature and wildlife are major inspirations for Aileen Kim. As a four-year track and field athlete, she has spent a lot of time outdoors, but she also enjoys hiking. The outdoors have also contributed to her love of art. She enjoys sculpture, clay, digital, graphite, watercolor and more. Aileen played volleyball for five years and was a member of the sports medicine club. She looks forward to studying biology at the University of Washington next year.



**Miles King**

As the audiovisual technician for Brodniak Hall, Miles King worked closely with his team to ensure quality lighting and sound for all performances. His interest in technology doesn't stop there. He was a member of FIRST Robotics and is currently working on a modification of a game AI for the video game Starcraft 2. He'll learn even more when he studies Computer and Information Sciences at Western Washington University next year.

**Samantha Koals**

Samantha Koals wants to be the reason people are confident and unafraid of a doctor's office. She is passionate about changing the way the medical industry views nurses, so she will study nursing at Northern Arizona University next year. The four-year volleyball player enjoys hiking, sailing, painting, traveling and photography as well.

**Reagan Lee**

As a student school board representative, Reagan Lee centered his research work on enabling elementary schools to respond more effectively to the social and emotional needs of students' development. He believes everyone has a voice and that there is power in learning other people's stories. For these reasons, he will attend Skagit Valley College to study social work with the hopes of becoming a substance abuse counselor at a rehab center.

**Casey Lemrick**

Coach John Ruckdaschel credits Casey Lemrick's "remarkable grit" for her relentless pursuit of excellence both academically and athletically. A four-year athlete on both the cross-country and the track and field teams, Casey loves being outside in nature, traveling and experiencing different cultures. Some of her passions include playing the guitar, reading and going for long runs. Casey heads to Clemson University in South Carolina next year where she will combine communications with environmental studies to gain a strong understanding of how to work with others to solve the climate crises and make our world more sustainable.

**Abby Longchamps**

Abby Longchamps' passions converge where outdoors meet adventure, animals and nature's quiet wisdom. Teacher Kristen Moore remarks that Abby "consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic and a genuine passion for learning. Next year, Abby will take her ever-loving passion for animals and nature to the university of Montana to study wildlife biology. Her career goal is to play a vital role in safeguarding the biodiversity of our planet and ensuring a sustainable future for all living creatures.

**Faye Lopez**

Faye Lopez has always loved public speaking, first through drama and later through speech and debate. Her passion eventually led her to become president of the speech and debate club, and she names editorial commentary as her favorite event. When she's not rocking it with that club, she can most likely be found on the soccer pitch, either playing or volunteer coaching. At Oregon State University Faye will pursue a business degree in hopes of entering the public relations or marketing research fields.

**Ian Lujan**

Both Ian Lujan and his teachers agree that he truly loves learning. Teacher Ruth Masters calls it “an insatiable appetite for growth.” A recipient of the National Hispanic and Latino Recognition Award and the National Rural and Small Town Recognition Award, Ian was a member of the mountain bike team for three years. His career goal is to work in product development for an automotive company, developing battery-powered and other clean fuel vehicles. To do this, he will study mechanical engineering at Oregon State University.

**Ella Martinez**

Valedictorian Ella Martinez is truly a Renaissance woman. Sports, drama, STEM, music, community service...she’s done it all. Four-year varsity swimmer and choir student, Ella currently serves as Lieutenant Governor for Key Club’s District 201. She placed three times in Solo and Ensemble choir and earned a spot at All-State Jazz and All Northwest Mixed Choirs. She’s a National Merit Semi-Finalist and won First place in NW Regional Finals of Poetry Out Loud. At Rice University she will study astrobiology to eventually obtain a research position.

**Pearl McFadyn**

Pearl McFadyn knows what she wants to do in her future. She will attend Western Washington University to study biology and then go through the Dental Hygiene program at Bellingham Technical School. Pearl was a member of Link Crew, played volleyball all four years of high school and coached Parks and Rec volleyball.

**Hannah McReynolds**

Counselor Kara Fox says that Hannah McReynolds is “not afraid to take on new challenges” and Teacher Enid Castro-Vega agrees, saying, “she has an adventurous spirit and embraces challenges.” The co-president of Journalism Club, Hannah has been involved in choir for six years and is a singer/songwriter and guitar player; she chooses to express herself through writing poetry and songs. Next year at Western Washington University, Hannah will pursue psychology with a goal of opening a dual language practice.

**Stan Molitor**

Stan Molitor’s seven years in band have resulted in accolades including State Solo and Ensemble and being selected for All-Northwest band. He plays three instruments: piano, euphonium and trumpet and is grateful to have made connections through music. His other passion is technology, which will lead him to a computer and information science degree at Western Washington University. After that, Stan plans to get a cyber security certification and eventually have his own cyber security consultation business.

**Parker Mong**

At the University of Washington, Parker Mong has both academic and athletic goals. He will run on UW’s cross country and track teams and would love to eventually put a business and communications degree to use working for a running or athletic brand. He is the cross country state champion and also Skagit Valley Herald Cross Country Runner of the Year. Parker also



spent three years in Broadcast Club commentating various sports events and was Vice-president of his class freshman through junior year. Assistant Principal Molly Huggins commends Parker for having a “strong work ethic that sets him apart as a model student.”

### **Dallas Moore**

Dallas Moore finds film fascinating and her work on The Rock, AHS’s broadcast and film class, gave her opportunities to both produce and create films. She also spent four years playing lacrosse and four years in Green Club. Her volunteer work includes Skagit Fisheries Enhancement group and Mt. Erie Elementary. Next year she heads to the University of Washington to study political science in the pre-law track.

### **Reese Morgenthaler**

Reese Morgenthaler is passionate about helping and teaching others, particularly sports, because it’s about the connections and bonds you make and the lessons you learn. Reese was a four-year athlete in soccer, basketball and lacrosse, and she also coached boys Parks and Rec soccer. Next year, she will play lacrosse for Virginia Wesleyan University where she plans to earn her teaching degree. She will study sociology to better understand human relations.

### **Mia Mortimer**

Teacher Jim Thompson says that Mia Mortimer’s “patient, calm demeanor is reassuring in high pressure situations.” In addition to her seven-and-a-half years of dance, she has also been a TA for Fidalgo Danceworks tumbling, kindergarten ballet, hip hop and tap classes, and for summer dance camp. These experiences will serve her well as she pursues a degree in elementary education at Washington State University. With her minor in Spanish, she would love to teach at a school where the majority of students are Spanish-speaking.

### **Sawyer Nichols**

Ask Valedictorian Sawyer Nichols what captivates him and he will tell you that *motion* will always be his guide, his hobby and companion. Sawyer is ASB Business Manager, Sports Medicine Club Treasurer, National Honor Society President and Captain of the tennis team. In addition, he played club volleyball and will continue the sport next year at Harvard University. He looks forward to experiencing diversity in all its forms – academic, social, intellectual and cultural – as he pursues a degree in economics.

### **Andrew O'Donnell**

Andrew O'Donnell loves working with his hands, working on cars, including a 1997 GMC truck and a Pontiac Firebird and creating things. He is also passionate about the outdoors and enjoys hunting and fishing. An Eagle Scout, Andrew has created and sold projects at the ASF Student Fair and won the Commissioners Award at the Skagit County Fair. Next year at Bellingham Technical College, Andrew will study to become an electrician.

### **Tatum Olsen**

Tatum Olsen knows she wants to spend her life doing what she loves, so by combining business and fashion, she can marry the two and have a full life. As captain of the speech and debate

team and soccer team, she knows how to lead and how to communicate ideas. Tatum also lifeguards at Fidalgo Pool, was a Parks and Rec coach and referee, and volunteered at the Family Center. At Arizona State, Tatum plans to major in business and start working on that dream of hers.

### **Sienna Paggao**

From the age of ten, Sienna Paggao has been cheering others on. Literally. Captain of AHS Varsity Cheer and captain of the NW Silverstars Dynasty club team, Tatum received the NCA Top All American Award for her cheerleading. And she's enjoyed the leadership roles, so much so, that she became a business manager of her senior class. Athletic Director Justin Portz describes her as "a leader on campus and in the classroom." Sienna's long-term goal is to become an athletic trainer, so she will study science as a start to that path next year at Grand Canyon University.

### **Shrey Patel**

"Determined. Organized. Honest." This is how teacher Mike Baribault describes Shrey Patel. Shrey has big dreams for his future. After studying accounting at Washington State University, he plans to become a CPA and help carry on his family's business. Teacher Scott Dickison has no doubt that the four-year football player will succeed, as he is "goal-oriented and strives everyday to meet those goals."

### **Jameson Pesaturo**

Jameson is intrigued by environmental engineering as an opportunity to apply problem-solving skills and innovative design principles to address pressing environmental challenges. Her volunteer work speaks to this passion: beach clean-up of Anacortes beaches; invasive plant species removal on Sucia Island; and gardening at the Anacortes Senior Center. Jameson will study civil engineering and environmental science at Washington State University next year.

### **Frank Peterson**

Frank Peterson has already embarked on the journey toward his career goals. He created and managed his own car detailing business which inspired him to pursue a business degree at Cornell University next year. Eventually, Frank plans to earn an MBA with a focus in entrepreneurship. But he's about more than business. He ran cross country for three years and was a Suzuki Association of Washington State Level III Violinist. Counselor Ashlee Poggie describes Frank as "highly adaptive with a global perspective and respect for the diverse world around him."

### **AJ Pianetta**

AJ Pianetta plays six instruments and has been in a band for nine years, but that's not her only passion. She has played lacrosse for five years and also enjoys rock climbing and games with friends. A drum major, AJ played viola for several orchestras including Jacksonville Youth Symphony and was awarded the "Outstanding Initiative" and the "Inspiring Positivity" awards in band. Next year she will study marine biology at Oregon State University as the first step toward her dream of traveling the NE coast of Australia to study the Great Barrier Reef.

**Layne Prue**

When Layne is not on the lacrosse field, where she's played for seven years, you can most likely find her on the stage or in the wings. Teacher Scott Burnett says Layne has been a "foundational member of the drama department and will be sorely missed." Other passions of Layne include film and digital media, but her career goal is to double major in English and history to become a secondary education teacher. She will start this path next year at Western Washington University.

**Lilly Prue**

An avid lacrosse player, Lilly Prue also enjoys hiking, golfing, traveling and photography. Perhaps she's most proud of helping lead the charge for fundraising and installing the new alma mater mural in the gym. Leadership teacher Spencer Andrich says, "Lilly showcased her professionalism and project management skills, and I'm so proud of her dedication." Lilly heads to University of Utah next year to study nursing with the ultimate goal of becoming a traveling nurse.

**River Pruitt**

Teacher Jessica Pullen has observed that River Pruitt is "unrelentingly focused and intellectually curious, someone who can be creative and boundary-pushing." River, who played lacrosse for three years and has been involved in theatre for nine, has always loved animals. Because she herself thrives in the outdoors, she plans to major in zoology at Oregon State University and eventually work for a zoo or animal conservation organization, even somewhere like Fish and Wildlife as a stream and habitat survey technician.

**Karma Ray**

Responsible. Empathetic and determined. This is how teacher Kristen Moore describes Karma Ray. Karma is a two-year wrestler who has also volunteer-coached youth cheer for several years. She enjoys farm-related activities and working with youth and hopes one day to have a backyard farm. Next year, she will enter the vet tech program at Bellingham Tech and possibly go on to vet school in her future.

**Alyssa Rogers**

Alyssa Ambers is driven and determined to start her future. A band member for seven years, Alyssa went to all-state three years in a row and says that band taught her dedication, strong work ethic and gave her lifelong friendships. She was also on the mountain bike team, National Honors Society and Varsity in Volunteerism. Having completed her prerequisites at Skagit, Alyssa heads to Washington State University to major in biology in the pre-med track.

**Amber Rogers**

For the last two years, Amber Rogers has been working to complete the prerequisites for the Skagit nursing program. In addition she has held jobs at Swinomish Casino and United General Medical Center. Amber also volunteered at the Eagles, Skagit Valley Hospital and Josephine long-term living center. Upon completion of her nursing program, Amber plans to attend Western

Washington University with the ultimate goal of becoming either a flight nurse or a nurse anesthetist.

### **Viviana Sanchez Cervantes**

In addition to soccer, Viviana Sanchez Cervantes did track and field, speech and debate and was a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She also volunteered through Varsity in Volunteerism, LINK crew and youth soccer camp. Despite having to move and switch schools throughout her years, Viviana has remained steadfast in reaching her goal: to become a mechanical engineer. She will start this journey at the University of Washington next fall and hopefully continue by serving as a Naval officer in the surface warfare community.

### **Landon Schafer**

As a volunteer coach for a local flag football team, Landon Schafer made a meaningful difference. According to teacher Erin Glick, “his selflessness and sense of civic responsibility underscored his character.” Landon was a captain of the football team and played basketball and track and field. He says sports have taught him kindness, cooperation and discipline. But he’s more than an athlete, Landon also loves art and has developed a recent passion for barbering. In the fall, he heads to Central Washington University where he will play football and pursue a degree in business/construction management.

### **Kami Sellards**

Kami Sellards describes herself as analytical and a hands-on learner. So it’s no surprise that she will study to become a forensic science major at Arizona State University next fall. Kami’s time in symphonic and jazz bands totals seven years. She was also on the track and field team for three years. Counselor Ashlee Poggie calls Kami, “ambitious, independent, highly self-aware, level-headed and reflective.”

### **Tessa Shainin**

Tessa Shainin has many passions—dance (15 years), music (5 years), the environment (3 years in green club) and philosophy. But her true passion has always been to inspire change in the world. She is an officer in Green Club, president of FBLA and spent three years on the Student Equity Council. At Seattle University, Tessa will participate in the Honors Program track of “Society, Policy and Citizenship”. Along with a major in philosophy, Tessa will minor in theatre and potentially double major in Spanish language and culture. She then plans to attend law school and specialize in either immigration or environmental law.

### **Virginia Shaw**

Virginia Shaw loves history and how it correlates to everything: science, religion, language. She is intrigued with figuring out reasons the world is the way it is now to determine how our future will be good. She plans to take full advantage of the research opportunities at Washington State University as an environmental science major. Her hope is to find ways to improve our ecosystems, conserve wildlife and habitats and heal our planet. Eventually, she hopes to study oceanography, specializing in arctic currents and mitigating the effects of climate change on those regions.

**Ethan Smith**

Ethan Smith has always been quite passionate about airplanes, something that was fueled even further when he started volunteering at the Heritage Flight Museum. But he's also interested in the intricate workings of the human body, which is why he will major in biomedical engineering at the University of Washington, Tacoma. His long-term career goal is to become an anesthesiologist.

**Jakob Smith**

ASB Vice President Jakob Smith is captivated by the worlds of business and music. At Oregon State University he will major in business administration, a program that involves a hands-on learning model. His goal after college is to work for a music label or management team. In high school, Jakob was a Green Club officer and class business manager both freshman and sophomore years.

**Brandon Springer**

When Brandon Springer attends Western Washington University next year he knows he wants to study some form of marine science, either biology or oceanography. His fascination with ocean creatures, particularly coral, has inspired a desire to raise awareness about diverse ocean habitat. Brandon volunteered with Green Club and is described by teacher Casey Anderson as "extremely self-aware with a top-notch work ethic."

**Adam Stovel**

Volunteering for the Washington State Trail Association has given Adam an appreciation for our environment. Paired with his interest in health, nutrition and exercise, he plans to integrate these passions and study ways to feed the masses in sustainable ways. To do this, he will major in business at University of Victoria in hopes of starting a business in the health and nutrition industry.

**Wolfgang Strohschein**

Multi-talented Wolfgang Strohschein has played music for eleven years, soccer for five and cross country for six. Teacher Chris Dyel calls Wolfgang "extraordinarily gifted as a clarinetist, pianist and bassist." He was selected twice for Washington All-State Wind Symphony, ranked third in large woodwind at Regional Solo and Ensemble and received the Louis Armstrong award for Excellence in Jazz performance. He has just as much passion for running as he does for music, but what he wants to do as a career is help people with their mental health. He will study psychology next year at Oregon State University.

**Ayden Swain**

Ayden Swain recently returned from a two year Portuguese-speaking volunteer position in Rio de Janeiro. He heads to Brigham Young University next fall to study Computer and Information Sciences, seeking to explore various fields such as software engineering, data science and machine learning. Deeply involved in sports and activities, Ayden competed in cross country and track and field all four years, wrestling for three, and was in FBLA all four years. Math

teacher Dan McClean says that Ayden is driven by a simple desire to learn and wants to soak up and master as much of what is around him as he can.

### **Mattias Thornton**

Robotics Advisor Shannon Jenkins calls Mattias Thornton “an invaluable member of the mechanical design/build sub-team.” He designed and built the FIRST score drone launcher this year and was treasurer of the club as well. Mattias also enjoyed drama and tennis. Ever since childhood he has been obsessed with electricity. For this reason, he will study mechanical engineering at the University of Victoria next year.

### **Caden Trumble**

Caden Trumble’s leadership was evident in both the drama club and the mental health club, as he served as president for both. His fascination with the human mind and its workings is inspiring him to embark on the psychology pathway at Whatcom Community College with plans to transfer to Western Washington University. From here, Caden hopes to obtain a doctorate and work as a research psychologist.

### **Olivia Turnage**

Olivia Turnage has been active in and passionate about her activities for decades. Truly. She has participated in lacrosse for ten years (and a captain), soccer for 12 and dance for 14. And she’s also been deeply involved in band, competing in state solo and ensemble competitions for two years and making it to All-state Band this year. At Dominican University of California, Olivia will pursue a business degree with the plan to eventually earn an MBA and manage a professional sports team. Oh, and she’ll also be on the lacrosse field as a Dominican Penguin.

### **Shaylin Tveter**

Sometimes a particular class or club can inspire lifelong dreams. For Shaylin Tveter, it was AP Stats and participating in FBLA that sparked an interest in business. The problem-solving required for FBLA events was intellectually challenging and truly captivated her. But Shaylin’s real passion is lacrosse, having played for AHS, Anacortes Club and Cascade Elite travel team. Next year she will study business at Fort Lewis College in Colorado.

### **Hunter Umayam**

Hunter Umayam is interested in many things but has a passion specifically for physical fitness. He ran cross country for four years and was a track and field athlete for three years. His interests include biological anthropology and the evolution of humans as well as artistic expression. For these reasons, Hunter plans to study the humanities when he attends University of Washington next fall.

### **Arturo Varela**

When Arturo Varela graduates, he will head to Bellingham Technical College to continue his passion for welding with the goal of becoming a rig welder. When he’s not working or volunteering, you will most likely find Arturo playing sports as he has played football for eight



years, basketball for eight and track for three. He is inspired by the sacrifices of his family and the mentorship of his uncle. He says, "My parents are my heroes. My parents are my reason why."

### **Sam Williams**

"Sam Williams is able to integrate his fine mind with active project-based learning." This from teacher Scott Burnett. Sam was involved in technical theatre for two years, which suited him well as he has always had an interest in mechanics and how things work. He loves tinkering with cars and baking custom cakes that are engineered to move. In fact, he once built a car out of chocolate chip cookies with a Lego pneumatic engine. He actually turned this passion into a small business, "Sam's Custom Crafts". He'll take his passion to High Point University in North Carolina next year to study engineering.

### **Thurston Young**

A volunteer at both Anacortes Community Theatre and Anacortes Music Project, Thurston Young is a self-proclaimed lover of people. This might be why he wants to major in Communications at Washington State University next year. Although he's also considering a business major, as he is quite interested in economics. Thurston played soccer for eight years and according to teacher Brian Backman, he has, "unlimited academic and leadership potential."

### **Daniel Zeller**

Daniel Zeller has been active in scouting since elementary school. An Eagle Scout, he was also part of the trap shooting team at AHS and participated in band. Next year at Bellingham Technical College, Daniel wants to learn about machining, CNC, fabrication and manufacturing because he is most fulfilled when he's creating with his hands.

### **Anthony Zumpano**

In addition to his love of nature and animals, Anthony Zumpano's main passion is space. His goals include learning about the world and eventually becoming a researcher at an observatory. His love of animals and the outdoors led him to become a volunteer at the Humane Society of Skagit Valley. He plans to study astrophysics at University of Alaska Fairbanks next year with a possible minor in marine biology. His high academic achievement earned him an internship with Friends of the Forest as a field data collector, where he collected data from ACFL lakes to measure water flow rate and other data.