

Press Release

Peninsula College Fund Founder Charles Schmuck to be honored as the 2018 Kiwanis Angel Award recipient on October 25, 2018

Charles Schmuck has been selected as the recipient of the 7th annual Kiwanis Angel Award for founding and expanding Peninsula College Fund (PCF), which works in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties to empower low-income first generation college students to graduate and obtain a job that aligns with career goals. Programs include four-year college scholarships, one-to-one mentoring, college and career success training, and summer internships.

The Kiwanis Angel Award, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto, honors an individual who has had a significant, positive impact on children and youth and provides a \$1,500 contribution to the recipient's organization.

The award reception will be held on October 25, 5:30–7:30 PM, at the Sheraton Palo Alto Hotel, 625 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, Moderator will be Police Chief Dennis Burns (Ret.). Ticket price is \$50 until October 18, \$55 afterwards, and can be ordered online at <http://kiwanisangelaward.org>.

After retiring following a successful 30-year advertising career, Charles Schmuck returned to teaching and coaching at Presentation High School in San Jose and, in 2005, founded PCF in response to troubling college drop-out numbers among local low-income youth. Nationwide, only 11% of first generation students attending four-year colleges graduate in 6 years. At PCF, nearly 94% of students have either graduated or are on track to graduate.

Since PCF's beginning, the number of students served each year has grown from three to 250, with 95 scholars having graduated from four-year colleges. This year PCF awarded a record 55 college scholarships from nineteen partner high schools in East Palo Alto, San Mateo, Belmont, Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Atherton, Mountain View, Redwood City, and east San Jose.

PCF scholars give tribute to its impact.

“Every year, PCF brings professionals to practice mock interviews, they provide networks for summer internships, and they have a great mentoring program. This is an amazing organization that has helped many students, including myself, continue their education and develop into the great leaders of tomorrow,” Keneisha P., PCF Scholar.

“PCF has pushed me to my limits in order to better myself. A truly phenomenal organization,” Marisol G, PCF Alum (UC Santa Cruz, 2010).

“The Peninsula College Fund became like a second family to me,” Priscilla P., PCF Alum (UC Santa Barbara, 2013).

Charles has received the prestigious regional Jefferson Award for Public Service from Meredith Publishing Corporation and was honored at the Junior League of San Jose Volunteer Luncheon.

Funds raised by the Angel Award event through sponsorships and tickets will support the Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto’s community service projects, grants, and scholarships, benefiting institutions working with children, youth, and families in the Palo Alto area.

For more information on sponsorship opportunities or event details, please go to <http://kiwanisangelaward.org>, or contact: Jim Stinger (650) 493-6043

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