

Dear donors and friends,

I hope you and yours are doing well. Are we almost there yet??!! I have to hope that we are nearing the finish line in terms of COVID quarantine, Zoom schooling, etc., etc.

I write to you with good news! Another set of Berkeley Adult School (BAS)-ESL scholarships has been awarded for spring semester of 2021. A total of 62 scholarships, for a total of more than \$14,000, have been awarded to 47 unique scholars since spring of 2019, when I established the program following my retirement in 2018. Despite considerable obstacles, and with your financial help and moral support, these students have successfully transitioned from BAS' free ESL classes to various East Bay community colleges and continue their coursework in ESL and in many other subject areas.



**Thank you** for your donations, and I hope you enjoy reading a little about each of this semester's scholars.

Much love to you,  
Jann

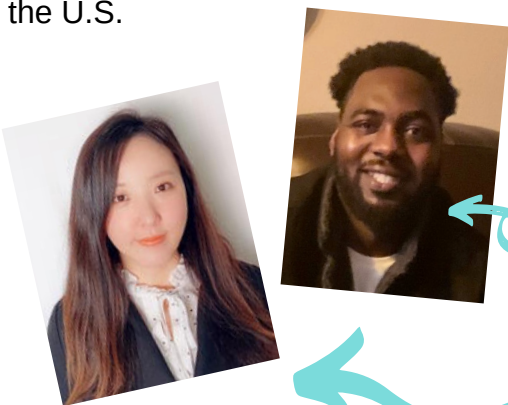
# 7

## RECIPIENTS FROM PREVIOUS SEMESTERS HAVE BEEN AWARDED A SECOND (AND FINAL) BAS-ESL SCHOLARSHIP:

**Xiaofang (China)** is currently taking chemistry, calculus, and economics, employed part-time at Berkeley Community College (BCC) and single-parenting her two children (ages 13 and 4). She is interested in a business career and hoping to transfer to UC Berkeley next year. **Thais (Brazil)** writes that she is "currently working on getting (her) Community Health Worker certificate at BCC" and she "look(s) forward to starting a new career as a Medical Assistant" in the future. **Chime (Tibetan, from India)** hopes to go into nursing. "Going back to school after decades is a very difficult and different experience," she says. "It's difficult with this pandemic (being a) working mother and having kids in Zoom class and also my own Zoom class and homework. So it's a bit (of a) trying time for all of us."



When I met with **Lynda** to present her with her first scholarship in the fall of 2019 she was pregnant, and subsequently had a baby girl in December of that year. Her husband's parents "are 82 years old and came for the first time to the U.S. to visit us on the occasion of my daughter's birth but unfortunately they couldn't go back to **(Algeria)** because of Covid! As a result, they are blocked here for more than one year! Thank God they are in good health." She adds that, "It is honestly a little bit challenging since I have a responsibility to take care of my baby and my in-laws.... I often study late in the evening because it is the only time I have besides caring for my family, but I'm trying my best to make it." She is taking real estate courses at Merritt College and hoping to work eventually in urban planning, which she studied prior to coming to the U.S.



**Gunther (Peru)** retains his focus on Business Administration as a career and is enrolled at BCC in Financial Accounting, Calculus for Business, and two English courses. He continues to work part-time for an Amazon delivery service. **Ismael (Guinea)** is taking psychology and sociology and aiming for an Associate degree in Administration of Justice before transferring to a four-year institution. **Cher** commutes to the East Bay from Rodeo. She lost her job because of Covid, and is now studying Photoshop, Illustrator, and photography at BCC. She looks forward to working again in digital marketing, as she did in **China**.

## 7 SCHOLARS HAVE RECEIVED FIRST-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS:

**Issiaka** is from **Mali**, in West Africa, and speaks French (the official language), Bamanankan (a nation-wide language), and Minianka (his mother tongue). He came to the U.S. in March of 2018 and has a wife and 4 children. In Mali he worked for a nonprofit organization; here he works as a security guard at Benioff Children's Hospital in Oakland. He wants to be comfortable in speaking English and rebuild his career as a nonprofit professional here in the U.S.



**Aishwariya** is from **Nepal** and speaks Nepali and Hindi. She has been here for 3 years, living in 2 rooms with her mother. She is a concurrent student at Berkeley Adult School (in the high school program) and at BCC. She is a night shift cashier at Jack in the Box and had surgery on her ear during the pandemic, as she has hearing problems. She is hoping to be a successful businesswoman in the future.



Another native French speaker, **Mariam** is from **Ivory Coast** and arrived in 2019, living in Oakland with her husband and daughter. She was a secretary in her previous life in Ivory Coast, and is taking ESL classes at BCC and hoping to continue studying.



Having finished less than 2 years of high school in **China**, **Lizhen (Jenny)** is glad to have the opportunity to study concurrently at the Berkeley Adult School and BCC. She is taking English, math, and business classes this semester. She worked as the manager of a clothing store in China, but arrived here in March of 2019 and now lives with her husband and his family in Berkeley. She writes, "I hope in the future, I can graduate from college and find a job that I like and have a stable life here."

**Lan (Amy)** was a college chemistry teacher for 8 years in **China**, as well as a manager in a private company there for another 8 years. She came to the Bay Area last year and is living with her son, who is a student at UC Berkeley. Now she studies ESL at BCC and writes, "I like reading books, watching news, walking and hiking. I am also interested in history and culture, diverse culture. Sometimes I watch biological science on YouTube as well. So English is really significant in our lives. I hope my English skills could be improved enough so that I could find a better job here in the future."



**Ishuma** is new to the U.S. from **Nepal**, arriving only a year ago and now living with a roommate and studying ESL and math at BCC for her first semester. "I was working a part-time job," she writes, "and recently I lost the job because of COVID. And I am looking for a new job right now. I am planning to focus more on studies."

**Brenda** is from **Mexico**, and writes very movingly about her life:

"My family's finances were difficult. I started working when I was 10 years old.

Due to our situation and almost no possibility of success, in addition to a country full of violence and insecurities, my parents decided to move outside of our country. It was sad to start over in a different country, with a different language and different cultural codes. I always liked school but it was more important to put food on the table. Finally, after almost 20 years living in this beautiful country, I found the opportunity to study again. When I was a child, my parents couldn't give me that opportunity.

I came to the US in 2000. I entered Berkeley Adult School in 2015 and many teachers encouraged me and helped me to continue studying. Now, I am in my fourth semester at BCC. I like technology, so I take all the math classes. I love numbers. This semester I am taking Trigonometry and Calculus 1. I have four children at home (all teenagers) which makes it very difficult to be a mother and a full time student. I hope soon something good happens to all immigrants who work hard to have a better life. My dream is to continue studying and have a better future to offer my children.

I wanted to thank everyone who contributes and donates to help students. It's a blessing. I'm sure your lives will be gratified in some way. Thank you so much!!"



THOSE WHO WISH TO DONATE ARE DIRECTED TO THE DONATION BUTTON ON THE WEBSITE OF THE BERKELEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FUND (BERKELEYPUBLICSCHOOLSFUND.ORG). PLEASE REMEMBER TO CLICK "OTHER" UNDER "PROGRAM" AND WRITE IN "BAS-ESL SCHOLARSHIP." CHECKS (EARMARKED "BAS-ESL SCHOLARSHIP" ON THE MEMO LINE) MAY BE SENT TO BPSF AT P.O. BOX 206SS, BERKELEY, CA 94702. THANK YOU!