Dear Friend of Hancock,

Ronaldo has what he calls "untold struggles."

The road has not been smooth for this Allan Hancock College student. He says with great respect that his parents set the example for how to work hard in the fields. But they couldn't help him navigate the confusing processes of going to college, because they had never been themselves.

As the first in his family to go to college, Ronaldo now sets the example for his younger siblings. He says that people like him must be educators in their own families, to help those behind him avoid the "untold struggles" that college can present.

There are thousands of young people just like Ronaldo in our communities, and they all deserve a good education—the opportunity to gain the knowledge and develop the skills to build a career, support a family, and contribute to our community.

Hancock College doesn’t cost much—about $1,300 per year in tuition and fees. But that price tag, along with the other costs of attending, can put college out of reach for many families.

So we did something about it.

Here at Hancock, we gave our word, our promise, that we would make it possible for any student in our district to go anywhere, to be anything, by getting their start here.

Covering tuition and fees is not enough. So we are expanding the uses of the Hancock Promise Fund to include assisting students with other costs of attendance, such as textbooks, transportation, housing, and other expenses.

As we enter the second year of the Hancock Promise program, we continue to raise funds toward a $10 million endowment to support students’ needs. This is Hancock’s promise, but also the community’s promise—your promise—to our young people. So I hope you will partner with us now in keeping that commitment to our community.

Thank you for your support,

Jon Hooten, Ph.D.
Executive Director, College Advancement
Lupita Ríos has a big heart for her community, and she’s going to college to find solutions to the social problems she has experienced firsthand.

The Hancock student was born and raised in Santa Maria, and her life followed a path familiar to many families in the area. She attended Robert Bruce Elementary and participated in the Boys and Girls Club after-school programs across the street.

As a junior high student, Lupita had an important role model—her oldest sister—who showed by example that college was a possibility for her younger siblings. After that, Lupita’s life had a new trajectory.

Lupita grew into a leader among her 2,700 peers at Pioneer Valley High School. She was elected president of the Future Leaders of America student government organization and helped organize a student leadership conference.

She also became an advocate for solutions to social problems facing Santa Maria’s disadvantaged communities. After the Parkland school shooting in 2018, for example, she spoke out at a rally against gun violence, saying that she had friends and family affected by local shootings.

So when she first heard about the Hancock Promise and that she could begin college without the burden of paying tuition and fees, she was interested. She signed up for Hancock’s summer classes after high school graduation and loved the experience. So she registered as a full-time Promise student in fall 2018 to major in political science.

It didn’t take long for her leadership abilities to emerge at Hancock as well. She is active in student government and a leader in various student clubs.

She is becoming more involved in off-campus leadership as well. She served as a volunteer coordinator for the successful launch of the Santa Maria Open Streets festival in the spring, and she serves on the board of Corazon del Pueblo, a new cultural and arts center on west Main Street in Santa Maria. She also worked on the successful city council campaign of Gloria Soto and was honored by the Santa Barbara County Action Network for her outstanding contributions to the community.

“Santa Maria is a really hard working community,” she says, “and people don’t always have time to stay informed about what’s going on in the city that might affect their lives.”

“I’m going to college to inform, educate, and defend our community in any way that I can,” she adds.
CHANGING THE ODDS

JIM FIELDS AND APRIL GILLETTE
Wine Growers, Lompoc, California

For Hancock Promise leaders Jim Fields and April Gillette, being on the front lines of groundbreaking philanthropic movements with the power to change lives is nothing new. Jim is an accomplished development professional, community leader, teacher, and writer. His equally accomplished and distinguished wife, April is an honored civic leader, designer, and university instructor. They met when working together in Watts, California, on one of Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter’s well-known Habitat for Humanity builds. Together they went on to found the Habitat for Humanity Peace Build in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Families are thriving in both landmark communities today.

After retiring from lauded careers in Los Angeles, the two began studies in the viticulture program here at Allan Hancock College and purchased land to plant their own vineyards. After Jim was injured in a serious motor vehicle accident a few years ago, the pair fought for his full recovery and, on the way, completed eight degrees between them at Hancock, graduating with distinction, together in 2014.

Their time together at Hancock brought them to appreciate the exceptional and supportive faculty who are true partners with students in achieving goals. They experienced tremendous encouragement in a truly collaborative learning community and found the inspiration to give more.

Today, Jim is a member of the Allan Hancock College Foundation Board of Directors, and he and April together are members of our President’s Circle. They supported The Hancock Promise with a gift of $10,000. Jim and April are leaders in funding The Hancock Promise because they know firsthand what kind of potential exists in the students with whom they shared such an important time.

Q. What are motivates and inspires you?
A. (April) Where the eye is, the heart follows. So, I work to create beautiful outward expressions of the inner life of the individual. If you focus on what inspires you, you’ll lead yourself to live an inspired life. Education can help nourish that inner life, which can express itself beautifully in the world.

(Jim) I was profoundly affected by the privilege of working with Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter and seeing their unwavering commitment to truly changing the world firsthand. As a former marine, I’m also motivated by peace and the strength that comes from unity of individuals and in communities.

Q. Why did you give to The Hancock Promise?
A. Hancock is more than a community college: it’s a college built on the principle of community. Hancock is touched by the family story of every student, and everyone here can affect change in each other and the larger world. The work of “changing the odds” is sacred work because dreams are the life of the human soul. So we believe that The Hancock Promise can make a difference in lives not only today, but over generations.

Q. What are your hopes for Hancock Promise students?
A. We hope that students achieve all that they’re striving for, while building lives of passion, purpose and inspiration for those in their families and all around them.

Jim Fields and April Gillette believe that everyone has the right to live an outward life that is a true expression of their very best inner identity.
BY THE NUMBERS

- 1,460 Hancock Promise students enrolled in the 2018-2019 academic year.
- 35 percent increase in the number of North County high school graduates came to Hancock in the 2018-2019 academic year.
- We expect our two-year graduation rates to jump next year as the first cohort completes their degrees.
- More than 12,000 elementary school children have experienced Bulldog Bound, the first phase of The Hancock Promise outreach program designed to create a hunger for higher education in younger students.
- Top ten finalist for the national 2018 Bellwether Award.
- Nearly $3.5 million in gifts and pledges from 175 Donors.

INCREASE OF ENROLLMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOW INCOME</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>↑ 32%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LATINX</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>↑ 27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEMALE</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>↑ 31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRST GEN</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>↑ 23%</td>
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PERCENTAGE OF ENROLLMENT FROM DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOLS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>2018 (TOTAL: 3,006)</th>
<th>2017 (TOTAL: 2,972)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>49%</td>
<td>32%</td>
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2018-2019 ENROLLMENT OF LOCAL FIRST-TIME HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

- SANTA YNEZ +124% 56 HS GRADS
- CABRILLO +46% 143 HS GRADS
- LOMPOC +45% 148 HS GRADS
- SANTA MARIA +21% 296 HS GRADS
- DELTA +79% 100 HS GRADS
- ORCUTT ACADEMY +34% 82 HS GRADS
- PIONEER +60% 362 HS GRADS
- RIGHETTI +57% 269 HS GRADS
- ST. JOSEPH +43% 30 HS GRADS
Jennifer Cervantes, 2019 winner of the prestigious Marian Hancock Scholarship, delivered a message of hope and determination to her fellow students.

Seeing is believing. So, we’re inviting everyone to see for themselves the impact that The Hancock Promise is already having at Allan Hancock College. This spring, the foundation launched a series of Promise Tours. These hour-long experiences are hosted by a different friend or supporter of Hancock who wants to share the positive impacts that their gift to the college is having on students and our community.

The tours show the impact of the Promise at Hancock and introduce participants to the faculty and staff who are making a difference each and every day.

“Even if you’re a long-time supporter of Allan Hancock College, this experience will show you something you didn’t already know,” says June Aiello, the development officer who designed and leads the tours. “And the best part for all of us? We absolutely won’t ask you for a donation at the end.”

Anyone is welcome to sign up for—or even host—a Promise Tour. For more information and to RSVP, please contact the foundation at 1-805-925-2004.

**TOUR DATES:**

- **Thursday, August 22, 2019**
  - 10 – 11 a.m.
- **Wednesday, August 28, 2019**
  - 10 – 11 a.m.
- **Thursday, September 19, 2019**
  - 10 – 11 a.m.
- **Wednesday, September 25, 2019**
  - 10 – 11 a.m.
- **Thursday, October 17, 2019**
  - 10 – 11 a.m.
- **Wednesday, October 23, 2019**
  - 10 – 11 a.m.

MAKE A PROMISE OF YOUR OWN

Please contact Development Officer June Aiello at 1-805-925-2004 or june.aiello@hancockcollege.edu to discuss a gift to The Hancock Promise or for more information about ways to support the mission of Allan Hancock College through the Allan Hancock College Foundation. Or simply complete the donor card and return in the reply envelope provided.

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Union Bank
Williams-Corbett Foundation
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Rotary Club of Santa Maria Breakfast
Rotary Club of Santa Ynez Valley
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Ron Thatcher
Rick & Marty Velasco
Guy & Molly Carillo Walker
Edwin Newhall Woods
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$ 3,497,402

$10 MILLION
$9 MILLION
$8 MILLION
$7 MILLION
$6 MILLION
$5 MILLION
$4 MILLION
$3 MILLION
$2 MILLION
$1 MILLION
$