

SUMMER 2025 NEWS BRIEF

The Brancati Foundation's mission is to support educational opportunities in leadership and ethics.

Awards, Scholarships, and Grants Update

Thanks to your support, the Brancati Foundation presented more awards, scholarships, and grants than ever before. While we have some business expenses, over **98% of our funding* goes directly to students, schools, and programs** that reflect our mission.

New Mexico State University Student Leadership Award

Each year, university faculty in the School of Hotel, Restaurant & Tourism Management select a student or students to receive this award based on the demonstration of ethical leadership in their discipline. In 2024-25, Megan Gill and Victoria Sainz each received the Brancati Foundation's award for \$1,000.



Victoria (left) graduated in May 2025 with plans to grow her business and begin working on a vocational training center for at-risk youth and other underserved populations.

Megan (right) graduated in December 2024. She is pursuing a career within the hotel industry with the goal of working as an event coordinator.

Nikki Mitchell Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship honors the legacy of Nikki Mitchell, a beloved teacher at Excelsior Charter School who passed away in March 2024.

Emilie Nevarez, an extraordinary young woman with a 4.24 GPA, a heart for service, and a story of resilience, was awarded the inaugural Nikki Mitchell Memorial Scholarship.

Currently in foster care, Emilie has faced homelessness, yet has not let adversity define her. Instead, she's become a compassionate leader — involved in school clubs and the National Honor Society, and even organizing a toy drive for children in need. Emilie's dream is to become a pediatric nurse, and we have every confidence she will achieve it.



Ayden Christopher Stathis Award

This award provides financial support to students pursuing Ayden's dreams that were cut short.

Calvin Hing received the 2024-2025 \$500 Ayden Christopher Stathis Award. Calvin shared a passionate plan to use the funds from this award to cook and serve meals to the homeless in Apple Valley. His heartfelt commitment to giving back through food, along with his initiative to continue learning, truly embodies the spirit of this award. In addition to Calvin, the committee overseeing this award named three students for honorable mentions:

- Manny Macias
- Christopher Wilson
- Julian Louis

Each of these students received \$100.



Brancati Foundation High School Scholarships

This year, the Foundation awarded three \$500 scholarships to deserving high school seniors. These funds will support their future educational goals.



Maryam Ali Khail: As an immigrant to the US, Maryam struggled at first with learning English, but she worked very hard, asked for help, and practiced English every day. She is more confident and very proud of how far she came. Her goal is to attend college to study ultrasound technology.



Jonah Uranga: Jonah is a native New Mexican who dreamed of seeing sights beyond the Desert Southwest and of attending a college that allowed him to further his faith journey. Jonah did well academically and secured admission to the University of Mary in North Dakota.

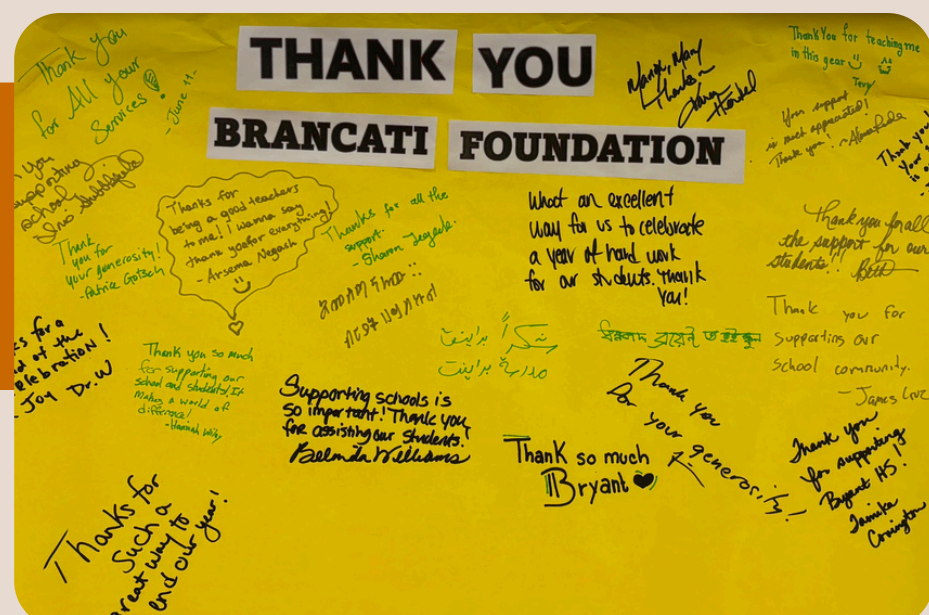
Neydi Rivas-Bonilla: Neydi became pregnant at 16, but she was determined to continue her education. She found daycare and a school where they helped her continue her education. She plans to be the first in her family to attend college with the goal of becoming a medical assistant.

Stathis Family Grant Recipients

Duchesne Preschool. The Foundation renewed the Duchesne Preschool major request for funding that will allow children from low-income families to attend this premier preschool. The program director commented, "This grant is literally life changing. It sets the course for all future success in education. The parents were in tears when I called to inform them that their child would be able to attend Duchesne Preschool. All the parents remain very active in the program. They attend conferences and parent events, and volunteer to help with school activities."



Bryant High School in Virginia recently held an impactful end-of-year celebration made possible by a Stathis Family Grant. As a Title I school serving a large population of multilingual learners and operating without the support of a parent-teacher association, Bryant faces ongoing challenges in funding student activities. This grant helped the school provide a memorable event that allowed students to reflect on their accomplishments, foster a sense of community, and celebrate their perseverance. For many students, it was a unique and uplifting experience that reinforced their connection to the school and their motivation to succeed. Bryant High School expressed deep gratitude for the partnership and shared their hope for continued collaboration in the coming year. This support not only addressed a financial need; it made a lasting impression on students' morale and sense of belonging.



Soroptimist Club: A grant from the Brancati Foundation provided funding to the Soroptimist Club, which helps high school girls access resources and gain skills to define and pursue career education or training beyond high school. Three years ago, the organization launched an intensive in-school program at the New America School in Las Cruces to focus their efforts on girls who face significant obstacles to higher education due to poverty and/or their family's cultural norms or lack of familiarity with the higher education system. The Foundation grant funded \$500 scholarships to deserving girls. Lynda Hayes, Soroptimist president, said, "Working with the girls monthly, we have seen their excitement about their future grow and their self-confidence increase dramatically."



Victoria Ruiz is planning to attend Dona Ana Community College with a major in business or psychology. She said initially she didn't know what she wanted to do after high school, but now she feels very motivated to pursue further education.



Destiny Santos intends to attend Dona Ana Community College. Her goal is to become a classroom teacher. She said she learned how much it means to have someone believe in her, and she wants to be that person for others.



Camila Barameda was accepted at Dona Ana Community College and plans to study psychology. Her goal is to become a psychiatrist. She says the scholarship will help her focus on her studies so she can be at the top of her class.



Jocelyn Gomez was accepted at Dona Ana Community College and plans to become a radiology technician. She said she learned from the experiences of many hard-working women in the workforce and how they accomplished their dreams.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of the Brancati Foundation. We are very grateful!

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About Us

The Brancati Foundation is a private foundation organized to promote educational and charitable activities. It is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit under EIN 27-1876725. Donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable under the law.

In 2023-2024, 1.8% of our funding went to overhead expenses, including tax preparation, taxes, postal fees, web hosting, and office supplies. The members of the Executive Board or Advisory Board serve as volunteers, donating their time and talent to further the Foundation's mission.



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