

2013 USTA NorCal Scholarship Recipients Named

August 7, 2013 12:27 PM

The USTA Northern California Diversity and Inclusion Committee named the 2013 recipients of their four annual Champions of Character scholarships which support the Level One strategic priority of Diversity with a Multicultural focus. These four scholarships are offered to support and encourage multicultural participation among high school students entering college.



Kathryn Bartel was awarded the Arthur Ashe College Scholarship which honors the memory of the valuable contributions Arthur Ashe made to tennis and the world at large. Kathryn wrote:

I am 17 years old, and from Campbell, California. I first got into playing tennis when I was 7 years old, when I first saw Wimbledon on television. I was playing a lot of different sports at the time, and adding another to my list seemed like a no-brainer. Unlike all the other sports, tennis stuck with me. I love to play tennis, and I loved introducing the sport to other people, which motivated me to do a lot of things. I started my middle school tennis team, became captain of my high school team, and I started non-profit organization Serve Up Some Love which brings tennis to kids living in homeless shelters and low income schools.

This fall, I will be attending Mills College—an all-women's college in Oakland, California. I plan on studying Biopsychology and Computer Science while I am there, as well as play on the tennis team. Go Cyclones! While I am living in Oakland, I hope that I can spread awareness about my non-profit, and spend time sharing tennis with more kids.

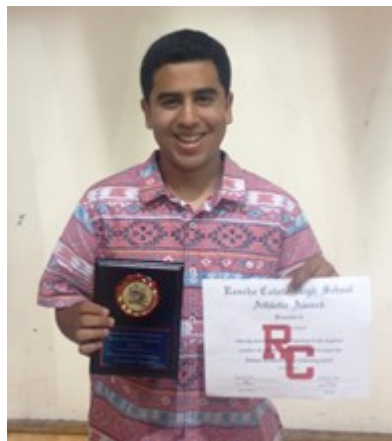


David Dinh was awarded the Michael Chang College Scholarship which honors of the valuable contributions Michael Chang has made to tennis for his play and his sportsmanship. David wrote:

My hometown is at Manassas, Virginia. But I moved to San Francisco when I was around 4 years old because my parents didn't like the weather back at Virginia. I am a recent graduate from Abraham Lincoln High School and I am currently attending to UC Davis to pursue either a Biotechnology or Molecular Biology degree. Hopefully I can finalize what major I want to pursue very soon! Some of my goals are to find something that I would love doing every single day and to enjoy life to its fullest potential!

I first started playing tennis at middle school when my dad signed me up for a tennis lesson class at my middle school after school program. At the time, I was not the healthiest child and didn't have adequate exercise. So my dad thought it was time

to change that bad habit and encouraged me to exercise more. From there I had my own private coach throughout middle school and began playing in the Lincoln Boys Tennis team in my freshmen year.



Francisco Carbajal was awarded the Pancho Gonzalez College Scholarship, honoring the valuable contributions Pancho Gonzalez made to tennis and for overcoming great adversity and obstacles in his life. Francisco wrote: *I moved to Rohnert Park when I was five from Mexico City and began learning about the wonderful and amazing game of tennis. I learned and developed a passion for playing tennis from my dad. He taught me the fundamentals and has guided me ever since along with my coaches from Rancho Cotate, Dustin St. John and Ann Sumner.*

Besides tennis being my passion, I also have a great and endless interest in Film. I love the movies and would love to work and create movies myself! I'm going to Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park and studying to get my BA in Communications and minor in Computer Science. My short term goals are to join the SSU Varsity tennis team, write and direct a short film, and buy a car soon!



Kindness Nwakudu was awarded the Althea Gibson College Scholarship in honor of Althea's memory, life, and achievements, paving the way for millions who followed. Kindness wrote:

I was born in Nigeria but left when I was one and have lived in California ever since. I am the oldest of six kids. I just graduated from Oakland Tech and will be attending the University of California Santa Cruz. I plan to major in biochemistry in hopes of becoming a pediatric specialist.

I first got into tennis through a summer program at Head Royce. Most of my family was into soccer but I never was. I had never played tennis prior to the program but I wanted to try a new sport. So I continued to play through the summers I was there. During my last year at Head Royce as a camper in 2009, one of the coaches told me to join my high school team. So in sophomore year I joined the Oakland tech tennis team. I stayed on the team until I graduated and I got better at tennis. I'm glad I had joined the team for I have made many friends and have gained new skills. I hope to continue playing tennis in college and beyond.