

Howard Mackey Gaucho Spirit Scholarship

El Cerrito High School Archiving Project Scholarship Program SPRING 2025



1964 El Camino Yearbook

The Howard Mackey Gaucho Spirit Scholarship was established in Spring 2020 to help deserving students continue their education and develop a spirit of learning throughout their lives. This scholarship is named in honor of Mr. Mackey, one of our beloved graduates and a former teacher. He was a dedicated, talented, and gifted educator who wanted to see all students succeed.

Throughout Howard Mackey's life he exemplified what it means to be a Gaucho, and as a member of the first graduating class in February 1944, he was involved with the school from the beginning. Born in San Diego, the family moved in the 1930's to El Cerrito where he grew up on C Street near Harding School and became a lifelong resident of El Cerrito. He and his classmates helped establish many ECHS traditions, including the school colors, mascot name, and fight songs. He was the very first student body president, quarterback of the football team, and was chosen the "Most Outstanding Scholar Athlete" on the 1943 team.

Mr. Mackey worked in the Richmond shipyards after school hours and after completing high school he joined the U.S. Army. He served in Germany and France. At the end of World War II, he went on to college, graduating from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1950. He met his future wife, Barbara, at the University of California, Berkeley and they married in 1951. They built their house in El Cerrito and in 1953 he returned to ECHS to become a math and history teacher before only teaching math where he was the department chair. He and Barbara had three sons, Kevin, Patrick, and Bruce. He was active in the Richmond Federation of Teachers Union and was president of the union when they organized the first teacher's strike in California in 1966. He taught at ECHS until he retired in 1987.

In 2005, just before the original school buildings were torn down, Mr. Mackey became involved in the ECHS Archiving Project. He helped go through the old buildings to save artifacts representing the school's history. He also participated for 12 years on the scholarship committee. He found it challenging to make a decision on who would become a scholarship recipient, as he thought all the students were deserving. Mr. Mackey passed away at the age of 95 years old.

Mr. Mackey's family are honoring their father's El Cerrito High School education and teaching career with an annual \$1500 scholarship. This scholarship will be presented to a student for their continuing education expenses.

The qualifications for the Howard Mackey Gaucho Spirit Scholarship are:

- Graduating senior who will be attending an accredited vocational school, trade school, two-year community college, four-year college or university or will be entering the military
- Demonstrates over the course of their years at El Cerrito High School, the Gaucho spirit through participation in school activities, athletics and academics.

Application details:

- **Scholarship application may be accessed online at <https://www.wccusd.net/Page/12107>**
- **The application deadline is Friday, April 25, at 12:15 p.m.**
- Do not modify this application. Enter your answers on this form. Please word process your application for better presentation and reading ease.
- Completed applications emailed to echsarchivingscholarships@gmail.com
- Applicants must be available for an interview appointment by ZOOM or in person.
- Winner of the 2025 Howard Mackey Gaucho Spirit Scholarship will be announced ONLINE.
- Full scholarship will be awarded upon proof of enrollment/enlistment submitted to Scholarship Committee Chair, Donna Houser.

Application form should be completed and returned together with:

1- Short answers to the below five application questions on one side of one separate sheet of paper:

1. How would you compare your Gaucho spirit to Mr. Mackey's Gaucho spirit?
2. From reading Mr. Mackey's biography on this scholarship form, you can still see the legacy he and his classmates left at the high school. What will your leadership legacy be?
3. Mr. Mackey taught history at ECHS. What current events do you think he, as a teacher, would focus on for young students today and why?
4. How do you think Mr. Mackey's leadership examples may help you achieve your goals?
5. What are your career goals?

2-One single sided page essay answering:

- What meaningful experience have you had at El Cerrito High School that will impact your future decision making?
- How do you see yourself giving back to your school and community?

3-Three letters of recommendations, each not to exceed one page:

- El Cerrito High School athletic faculty or staff member or team mate
- El Cerrito High School academic faculty or staff member
- El Cerrito High School activities faculty sponsor

4- Unofficial transcript requested by asking counselors to pull up transcripts

Selection will be based on:

- Completed application and questions
- Essay
- Interview
- Unofficial Transcript
- Letters of recommendation

Questions:	Donna Houser	echsarchivingscholarships@gmail.com	510-508-6830
	Michelle Seymoure	michelle.seymoure@wccusd.net	510-231-1437 ext. 26450

Howard Mackey Gaucho Spirit Scholarship 2025 Application
El Cerrito High School Archiving Project

APPLICATION DUE April 25, 2025, 12:15 p.m. TO echsarchivingscholarships@gmail.com
Print neatly or type. Attach one page for the five questions and one page for essay to this application.

Applicant _____
Address _____

Contact phone number _____
Email Address _____
Birth Date _____

☐ Parent or ☐ Guardian Name(s) _____
Address (with whom you reside) _____
Contact phone number (with whom you reside) _____

List all schools you have applied to including vocational, trade, community college, four-year college and/or university, military _____

What other scholarships have you applied for? _____

SCHOOL ACTIVITY SUMMARY (Please, no abbreviations)

School Sponsored Activities	Positions Held (if any)	Participating Years
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

ATHLETIC ACTIVITY SUMMARY (Please, no abbreviations)

School Sponsored Activities	Positions Held (if any)	Participating Years
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

School Honors/Awards/Achievements _____

Signature _____

Print Name _____

Date _____



ECHS ¹⁹⁴¹/₂₀₀₅
archiving project

