



## KENDRA HIGGINS: COMING FULL CIRCLE AND GIVING BACK

In the bustling corridors of academia, where the echoes of learning reverberate, lies a nexus where economics education intertwines with student leadership. Kendra Higgins, an alumna of Humboldt State University, embodies this intersection, weaving her experiences in economics into her role as Executive Director of the Associated Students. Exploring Kendra's journey, her pivotal moments, and the profound impact of economics on her career trajectory and leadership approach is an inspiring story for Economist of the future.

Kendra's journey began with uncertainty upon graduation. Her internship experience in Minneapolis, though technical, left her yearning for something more fulfilling. It was during her time as a student, under the mentorship of Professor Will Fisher, that she began to realize the broader applications of economics. Kendra shares, "While looking for jobs, I saw a posting on the HSU careers page for an emergency hire in the accounting department. I said, 'Why not?'" Through this role, Kendra honed her financial acumen, learning the intricacies of reading financial statements and managing budgets. "The transferable skills I learned in my economics program allowed me to pivot to Associated Students budget analyst and then on to working in the Small Business Development Lead Center," Kendra reflects. This transition marked the beginning of a transformative journey, where she delved into grant management and eventually ascended to the position of Executive Director.

Returning to her alma mater as a staff member presented Kendra with a unique challenge: balancing her personal connection to the university with her professional responsibilities. "Coming to this University as a student was a step in my healing journey," she shares. "I feel like working at my alma mater is my opportunity to give back to these students and help them grow and succeed in this world, like I had the opportunity to when I first came here."

In her role within the student-led Auxiliary program, Kendra embraces the opportunity to mentor student leaders in the realms of qualitative and quantitative analysis. "Working in an Auxiliary, especially one that is student-led, has many teachable moments," Kendra explains. "I feel privileged to be in a position to mentor our student leaders in qualitative and quantitative analysis and understand the economic impacts on their budgetary decisions and resolutions."

As Kendra navigates the dynamic landscape of student leadership, she remains steadfast in her commitment to empowering future generations. Through her role in the Auxiliary program, she bridges the gap between theory and practice, equipping students with the tools and insights needed to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Kendra's journey underscores the profound impact of economics education on leadership and community engagement. As she continues to champion the intersection of economics and student leadership, Kendra serves as an inspiration to all who seek to empower and uplift others through education and mentorship, especially through Humboldt's unique culture.



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**SPRING 2024****THE SHORT RUN**

## NAVIGATING ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT IN CALIFORNIA'S CARBON MARKETS

*Indigenous sovereign communities face unique challenges on the path to economic sustainability. In this edition of The Short Run, we delve into the potential of tribal engagement within California's carbon markets, spotlighting the cap-and-trade program as a pathway to overcome obstacles and foster financial growth. Tribes face poverty and jurisdictional complexities with traditional funding avenues often lack the specificity needed to support crucial activities, especially in natural resource departments where cultural practices intersect with regulatory frameworks.*

*In response to climate change, California introduced Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32) in 2006, setting up a cap-and-trade program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This market-based regulation creates a limited market for carbon emissions permits, allowing firms to trade them to reduce compliance costs. Managed by the California Air Resources Board (CARB), the program aims to incentivize emission reductions while ensuring environmental integrity. Indigenous tribes can participate in the cap-and-trade program through approved compliance-offset protocols like Improved Forest Management (IFM). By enhancing carbon storage through forest management practices, tribes can generate carbon credits for sale. While entry involves modeling anticipated carbon stock changes and significant upfront costs, the potential for positive financial capital is evident.*

*The Yurok Tribe's success in the voluntary carbon market underscores the economic benefits of participation. One remarkable highlight of their journey is the strategic allocation of revenue generated from carbon offset projects. The Yurok Tribe has reinvested approximately \$4 million of their earnings into key areas of community development with a significant portion of this investment has been directed towards the acquisition of additional land, expanding their territory to a total of 100,000 acres. This expansion not only secures valuable natural resources but also reinforces the tribe's sovereignty and self-determination. Furthermore, the Yurok Tribe has channeled a portion of their funds into critical initiatives aimed at bolstering education and food security within their community. By prioritizing these essential needs, they are not only fostering individual empowerment but also nurturing the collective resilience of their people.*

*The success story of the Yurok Tribe underscores the transformative impact of economic empowerment and sustainable resource management. Through prudent financial decision-making and a steadfast commitment to community well-being, they have demonstrated the profound potential of indigenous-led initiatives in driving positive change. As we continue to explore the dynamics of economic viability for indigenous communities, the Yurok Tribe's example serves as a powerful reminder of the resilience, innovation, and collective empowerment that lie at the heart of tribal engagement. Their journey illuminates a path towards a more sustainable and equitable future for all.*

*Entering the cap-and-trade program offers indigenous tribes a pathway to exercise sovereignty and promote economic growth. While upfront costs and long-term commitments must be considered, the potential for positive financial capital is significant. As demonstrated by the Yurok Tribe and supported by market analysis, the cap-and-trade program presents an opportunity for tribes to build a prosperous and sustainable future. Assessing market stability and growth trends, along with analyzing carbon allowance prices, reveals the cap-and-trade program as a stable and less risky market. The multiplier effect theory, as demonstrated by the Yurok Tribe's economic expansion, highlights the potential for financial capital to compound within indigenous communities. With evidence of increased spending and reinvestment, participating tribes can bridge economic disparities and promote autonomy. The cap-and-trade program should be seriously considered by indigenous sovereign nations seeking to expand financial capital and ensure economic viability for generations to come.*



# SPRING 2024

# THE SHORT RUN

## Recognizing Excellence: Celebrating Outstanding Achievements in Economics

### ADAM SMITH AWARD ZACH MEYER

Zach's academic journey is a testament to his unwavering dedication and passion for learning. With a focus on economics and environmental studies, he has delved deep into research internships, including pivotal roles in a CBA and a commuter study. As the sustainable transportation coordinator, Zach's commitment to sustainability has been evident in every aspect of his work. Beyond his academic pursuits, Zach has been an active leader, serving as President, Vice President, and Treasurer for the ENST club, and as Vice President of the Econ club. Not to mention his initiative in creating the intramural soccer team/group, Trash Pandas.



In an exclusive interview, Zach shares his thoughts on receiving the prestigious award. "It is an honor to be recognized," he states humbly. "I feel that I have truly committed myself to my education and my future during my 2 years at Humboldt. I have put in more work and effort into the last 2 years than I really have my entire life."

Zach attributes much of his success to the supportive community within the Economics department. "The Econ department has provided me with a tight and loving community," he acknowledges. "One that is focused on exploring the ways that economics has and will impact the world." Zach appreciates the department's emphasis on critical thinking and acknowledges the role it has played in preparing him for future endeavors in environmental and political action.

As a beacon of inspiration for his peers, Zach offers invaluable advice for students embarking on their academic journey. "Embrace the things you enjoy, just dive into it," he encourages. "But also expand your horizons." Zach emphasizes the importance of pursuing additional interests and recommends exploring minors to broaden one's knowledge and enhance professional opportunities. Above all, he emphasizes the significance of seizing every opportunity that comes one's way. Zach Meyer's journey exemplifies the transformative power of dedication, community, and a thirst for knowledge.

### ADAM SMITH AWARD DAEGAN HAMMOND

Daegan's victory in securing the prestigious Adam Smith Award alongside Zach Meyer is a grand celebration for Humboldt's Economics Department, underscoring not only his exceptional aptitude in economics but also his dedication and passion for the field. The award symbolizes the embodiment of Adam Smith's principles of economic theory and application. Throughout his academic career, Daegan distinguished himself not only through academic excellence but also through his proactive engagement. With a remarkable capacity to apply economic principles to real-world challenges, showcasing his potential to make significant contributions to the field.

The selection committee, composed of esteemed faculty members, unanimously agreed that Daegan epitomized the qualities of a worthy recipient of the Adam Smith Award. His exemplary academic record, coupled with his innovative thinking and potential for future contributions to the field, made him a clear choice for this prestigious accolade.



### ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD MATT FULTON



The Academic Achievement Award, a prestigious accolade bestowed annually, serves as a testament to the exceptional academic prowess and dedication exhibited by a standout Economics student. It stands as a symbol of recognition for unparalleled excellence in scholarship and a testament to the recipient's unwavering commitment to academic excellence. For Matt, much of his time at Humboldt has been dedicated to mastering the intricacies of economics, complemented by minors in math and statistics. "Building quantitative skills as well as understanding economic concepts is important for the job market," he remarks. Matt's journey has been enriched by invaluable real-world experiences, including his involvement in the Cost of Living project with Prof. Eschker and his role at the Schatz Energy Center, where he worked on a transmission analysis for the Offshore Wind Project in Humboldt.

Receiving the award holds deep significance for Matt, particularly given his background. "This award means a lot to me," he shares candidly. "I don't come from an academic background at all, I worked in casinos since I was 18 and restaurants even earlier than that." As a first-generation college student, Matt's achievements hold special significance, not only for himself but also for his family. "It's a pretty big deal for my mother to see me come so far academically," he adds. Matt also expresses gratitude towards his advisor, Will, and faculty members like Nicola and Beth, whose mentorship and insights have been invaluable in shaping his academic and professional trajectory.

Reflecting on his journey, Matt offers sage advice to fellow students. "Just grind it out and not stress too much," he advises. "Especially if you're in your early 20s, you have so much time to figure stuff out and experience the world." While academic success is important, Matt emphasizes the value of gaining diverse experiences and maintaining a balanced perspective. Matt Fulton's journey from casinos to classrooms serves as a testament to the transformative power of education and perseverance. As he continues to make strides in economics and beyond, Matt's story inspires us all to embrace the journey, overcome obstacles, and reach for excellence.

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# THE SHORT RUN

## Celebrating Academic Excellence: Scholarship Award Recipients in Economics

### BOB R. KITTLESON SCHOLARSHIP ANAHI RUIZ

Humboldt is not just a place of academic learning; it's a community where students like Anahi find the support, inspiration, and opportunities to make a meaningful impact. Recently honored with a prestigious scholarship, Anahi reflects on her journey, her aspirations, and the profound impact of her experiences at HSU. Anahi's journey at Cal Poly Humboldt has been marked by a commitment to empowerment and community-building. "Since coming to Cal Poly Humboldt, I have established the Women in Econ group," Anahi shares proudly. "A safe place for the women in economics to come together and form a community to empower one another." Through this initiative, Anahi hopes to create a lasting legacy of support and solidarity within the economics department.



Receiving the scholarship holds deep significance for Anahi, extending beyond financial aid. "More than the financial help that the scholarship will provide in covering some of my tuition costs," she explains, "it also reaffirmed that I am on the right path towards what I want to accomplish with my economics degree." Anahi's vision extends beyond personal success; she aims to leverage her education to drive positive change and uplift communities. Anahi's experience at Cal Poly Humboldt has been profoundly shaped by the supportive community within the economics department. "When I transferred to Cal Poly Humboldt, I didn't know what to expect," she reflects. "But what I found was a tight-knit, caring, and supportive community."

As a beacon of inspiration for her peers, Anahi offers sage advice for fellow students embarking on their academic journey. "Life is limitless," she emphasizes. "As college students, we sometimes undermine our capabilities or believe things to be impossible. To that, I say let go of those self-limiting beliefs and see how different your life begins to unfold." Anahi encourages her peers to embrace their potential and break free from self-imposed limitations. Anahi's journey with the scholarship and Women in Econ exemplifies the transformative power of education, community, and empowerment. Anahi serves as an inspiration to us all, reminding us of the boundless potential that lies within each and every student at Cal Poly Humboldt.

### ATKINSON FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP COLBY CALABRESE

In the corridors of academia, the pursuit of excellence often intertwines with the spirit of generosity and legacy. Colby, a standout student at Cal Poly Humboldt, embodies this intersection through his recent recognition as the recipient of the esteemed Atkinson Family Scholarship. For Colby, being awarded the Atkinson Family Scholarship is more than just a recognition of academic achievement; it's a commitment to honoring economic culture at Humboldt. "It is an honor to receive the Atkinson Family Scholarship and be a part of their legacy," Colby shares with humility. "I wish to honor that legacy by paying it forward in my future through my career in Economic Development." The Cal Poly Humboldt Economics department has been instrumental in shaping Colby's academic journey and his vision for the future. "The Economics department has encouraged my intellectual curiosity," he acknowledges. "Providing me with excellent hands-on learning opportunities and helping me build a career path I am excited to pursue."

As a beacon of inspiration for his peers, Colby offers sage advice for fellow students embarking on their academic journey. "Stay curious and get involved!" he urges. "There are so many great opportunities here for people that just take action."

As Colby looks ahead, he is committed to paying forward the opportunities and support he has received. Through his career in Economic Development, he aims to contribute to positive change and make a meaningful impact in his community. "Receiving this scholarship is not just a recognition of my achievements," Colby reflects. "It's a responsibility to honor the legacy of generosity and support that has been bestowed upon me." Colby's journey with the Atkinson Family Scholarship exemplifies the transformative power of education, generosity, and commitment to legacy. As he continues to forge ahead on his academic and professional path, Colby serves as an inspiration to us all, reminding us of the profound impact of investing in the future generations.



### BALABANIS SCHOLARSHIP MEZZY EPIDENDIO

At the heart of the Humboldt Economics Department lies a culture of connection—a tight-knit community where students are not just learners, but collaborators and supporters of one another's academic endeavors. Mezzzy, reflecting on her journey, shared, "Through the challenges of adjusting to college, I'm so grateful to have been involved with the amazing community created within the Humboldt Economics Department." Her words encapsulated the sense of belonging and support that she found within the department, highlighting the importance of community in navigating the complexities of higher education.

Receiving this scholarship is a validation of her hard work, dedication, and academic achievement. Upon receiving the Homer Balabanis Economics Scholarship, Mezzzy expressed, "Receiving this award is truly an honor, and I will continue to strive for excellence both in and outside of Humboldt!" Her words reflected her gratitude for the recognition of her hard work and dedication, while also serving as a testament to her determination to continue pursuing her academic and personal goals. Named in honor of the esteemed founding economist Dr. Homer Balabanis, the scholarship symbolizes a legacy of excellence and commitment to the field of economics—a legacy that Mezzzy now proudly carries forward.

