

Making College Dreams Come True in Marin

One of California's leading "college success" nonprofits, 10,000 Degrees is proud and thrilled to have the opportunity to help hundreds of middle school, high school, and community college students from low-income backgrounds in Marin County realize their dreams of earning four-year college degrees.

Founded in 1981, under the name the Marin Education Fund, 10,000 Degrees currently supports approximately 500 middle and high school students across the county as well as 236 students currently enrolled at the College of Marin.

Many 10,000 Degrees students and staff were raised in Marin County and attended local school including several participants in the 10,000 Degrees Fellowship Program, which features recent college graduates from low-income backgrounds.

One such Marin County student turned Fellow is Gracie Francisco, who is now a 10,000 Degrees Program Manager for Central and Northern Marin.

"It's especially rewarding to work with students from Marin County," explains Gracie, who attended Sir Francis Drake High School, "because I wish I could have had someone on my team to help me ask the right questions about how to get to college."

A graduate of the University of California, Santa Cruz, Gracie currently manages a small but highly-trained team that tirelessly supports students in high schools in the Novato Unified School District and San Rafael City Schools.

Right now, Gracie is busy helping her team support local high school students through the complicated state and federal financial aid application process, which started on October 1.

"It's been such a rewarding opportunity for me to come back and provide guidance to the people who need it most," Gracie says, "But there's still so much work to be done."

ABOUT 10,000 DEGREES:

10,000 Degrees combines personal support, college advising, scholarships, and financial aid management to help students from low-income backgrounds get to and through college. More than 80% of 10,000 Degrees four-year college students earn bachelor's degrees, compared to 31% of their peers nationally. Headquartered in San Rafael, California, 10,000 Degrees works with students in 27 area high schools, 34 community colleges, and over 50 four-year colleges and universities in the North Bay and across the nation. To learn more, visit 10000degrees.org.