

MVLA foundation raises record-breaking grant funds

Special to the Town Crier

The MVLA High School Foundation recently gave the Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District a \$1.575 million grant, the largest grant in the foundation's 34-year history.

At the annual spring gifting dinner last month, foundation co-executive directors Laura Roberts and Margaret Gong presented a \$1.575 million check to Superintendent Jeff Harding and district board President Phil Faillace.

The foundation has traditionally raised funds to support academic endeavors. With record participation, the foundation expanded this year's grant to bolster Innovative Learning Grants and a wellness initiative.

"We would like to thank our donors who made it possible to continue the foundation's mission of investing in a learning environment that empowers all students to thrive and succeed," Gong said.

MVLA Innovative Learning Grants challenge students to make connections and discover alternative problem-solving solutions. Projects include TED Talks, a Food Chemistry Fair, acting workshops, equipment for scientific discovery and stratospheric balloon launches.

The wellness grant enables district schools to provide students with support beyond the classroom, including stress management and



TRACI NEWELL/TOWN CRIER

Los Altos High School sophomore Hassib Rangeen, center, presents to a group of his peers his research on the decay rate of apples at his class' Food Chemistry Fair. The MVLA Foundation's Innovative Learning Grants funded the fair.

extended counseling hours. In addition, counselors and administrators attended wellness panels to learn from local experts about available support services.

"The focus on wellness, made possible by the MVLA Foundation, makes an enormous difference in our students' and teachers' daily lives," Harding said. "Wellness is the active

process of becoming aware of and making choices toward thriving and moving toward a successful life. Thank you to the MVLA Foundation for remembering that we not only educate young adults for academic success, but also prepare them for a fulfilling life."

For more information, visit mvlafoundation.org.

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person and has a really interesting life, and he offers a very optimistic and hopeful story that is engaging," she said.

Isaacson's appearance, scheduled 6-9 p.m. June 24 at 242 State St., will include an introduction by Jill Escher, president of the Autism Society of the San Francisco Bay Area, before Isaacson shares more about the Movement Method.

"These kids have so much potential, but the way we are teaching to them is just not working," Johnston said. "The idea with the Movement Method is you can do it anywhere. It's about treating these kids with a lot of compassion, a lot of outdoor time and sun – being really strategic to reduce the stress."

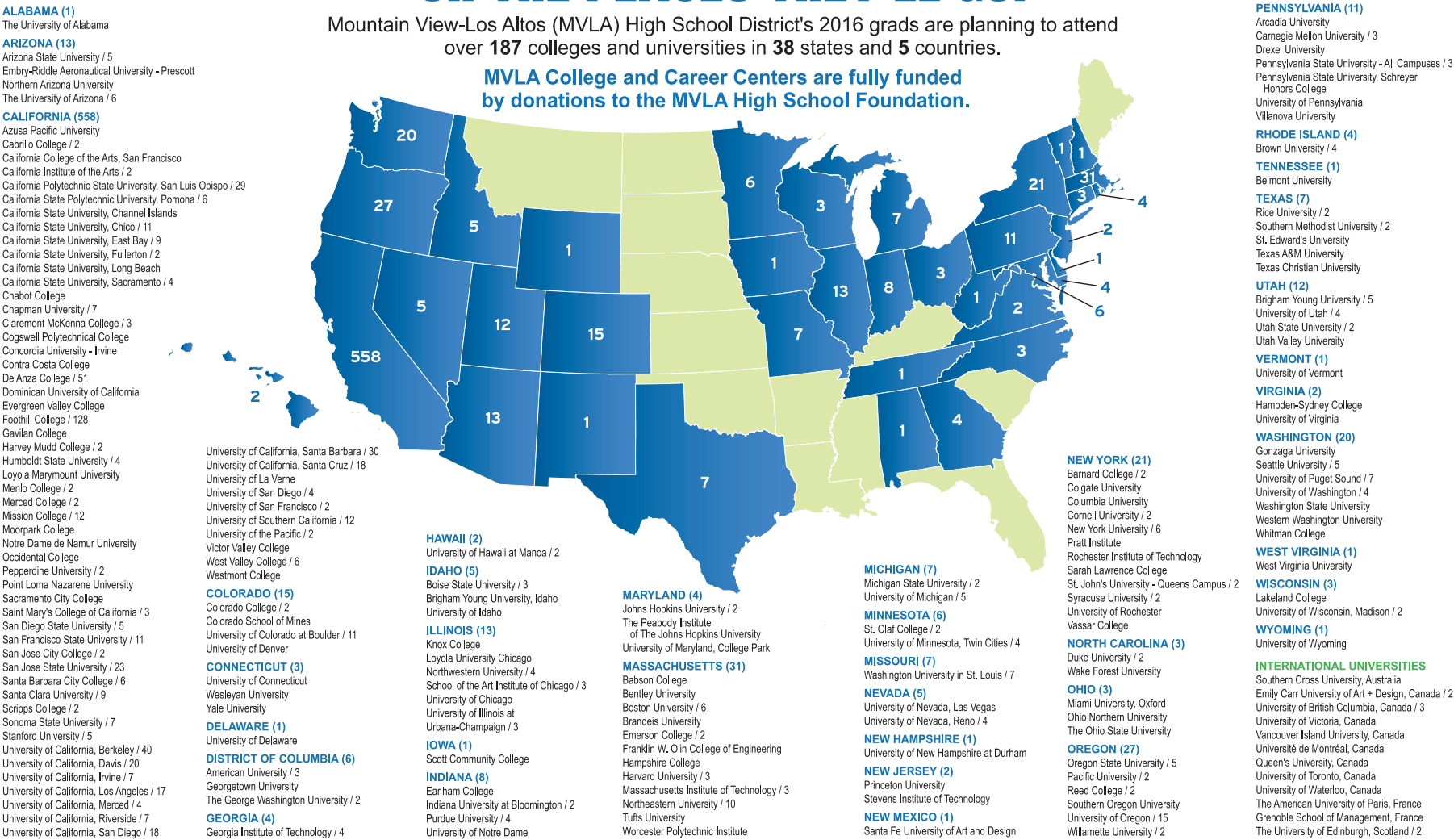
Admission is free and open to the public. Los Altos Community Investments donated space for the event.

To register and for more information, visit eventbrite.com/e/talk-by-rupert-isacson-autism-activist-and-author-of-the-horse-boy-tickets-25822768596.

OH THE PLACES THEY'LL GO!

Mountain View-Los Altos (MVLA) High School District's 2016 grads are planning to attend over 187 colleges and universities in 38 states and 5 countries.

MVLA College and Career Centers are fully funded by donations to the MVLA High School Foundation.



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