

# USC Office of Academic Programs

*Norman Topping Student Aid Fund*

# Annual Report



# 2022-2023

# Director's Report

The 53rd year of the Norman Topping Student Aid Fund was a year of transition and opportunities. The NTSAF started the year without a Director and by the end of the Fall semester we saw the entire staff transition out to other roles. Dr. Erica Lovano McCann, the Assistant Vice Provost for Academic Programs, took over as the primary administrator for the NTSAF. Under Dr. Lovano McCann's leadership, Topping was able to maintain a high-level of support, continuing to provide programming for our Scholars & Fellows. This past year the Governing Board was able to award over \$35,000 in Exceptional Funding to our students.

My first day as Director was during our Spring Faculty-Student Luncheon, where I was officially introduced to the Topping Family. The remainder of the Spring semester provided me with the opportunity to learn all about Topping and what makes this program so impactful. The 2022-2023 academic year was a shining example of how students, staff, faculty, and administration come together to support the success of the NTSAF. By the end of the 2022-2023 academic year, we were able to set the foundation for growth in Topping by hiring a new Assistant Director and securing the first increase of the Topping fee in seventeen years. In the coming year we plan to increase the number of students receiving the NTSAF Scholarship, implement new services for our Scholars & Fellows, and increase the visibility of Topping in the USC community. I look forward to continuing my work with the Topping Team, Governing Board, and our Scholars & Fellows to make Topping a beacon for first-generation & low-income student success at USC.

Dr. Rick Trevino  
NTSAF Director



**Dr. Rick Trevino**  
**NTSAF Director**

# Letters from the Chairs

Dear Topping Family,

Our commitment to support and stand with our Topping students remains just as strong as more than 50 years ago when the Fund was established to address several inequities across higher education. The university has made tremendous progress and strides toward this mission; and as financial and racial disparities exacerbated by the pandemic still burden our Scholars and Fellows, the scholarship and community provided by NTSAF is even more imperative now than in the 1970s.

This academic year, the Governing Board and the NTSAF staff will come together with fierce determination and resolve to make our Topping Scholars, Fellows, as well as our alumni feel represented in the broader Trojan community. We are eager to support you and committed to cultivating connection as well as fostering belonging within the Topping family.

With Gratitude,

Liam Tsao  
2022-2023 Governing Board Chair

Antonio Okeke  
2023-2024 Governing Board Chair



**Liam Tsao**



**Antonio Okeke**



# Mission Statement

The central mission of the Norman Topping Student Aid Fund is to empower our Topping Scholars and Fellows to realize their full potential at USC, in their communities, and in life beyond the University. To achieve this mission, the Fund provides support and guidance, community-building programs, and financial assistance. The Fund advocates for equity in higher education by selecting students with high-financial need who exhibit an extraordinary commitment to community.



# Year in Review

## Retreat

Our Topping students had the opportunity to engage in various workshops encompassing the importance of finding your community at USC, building a network, and preparing them to meet their academic and creative potential.



## Safe Halloween

Joined by the spooky season spirit, the Hoover Recreation Center and NTSAF collaborated bringing the community a night of fun with a costume contest, sweet candy, and bouncy jumpers. Our Topping students engaged with the children and their families throughout the night bringing smiles and laughter on this special night.



## Toppsgiving

As the semester was coming to an end our Topping Family came together and enjoyed a warm meal while sharing their gratitude for their family, friends, and personal achievements.





# Year in Review

## Faculty Student Luncheon

During the Spring semester our Topping students engaged with USC faculty giving them the opportunity to connect outside of the classroom. Students learned about their role, passions, and why they pursued a career in higher education.



## Recognition Banquet

After years of hard work and dedication our Scholars and Fellows deserved a night of recognition. Topping students and their families joined us for a lovely dinner, awards, and heartfelt speeches. Our 36 graduating Scholars and 18 Fellows were sashed to commemorate their grand achievement.



# NTSAF by the Numbers

**\$1 Million Dollars in Scholarships to 142 students**

**From surrounding community**

**45%**

**First generation college students**

**94%**

**3.35**  
Undergraduate  
GPA

**3.75**  
Graduate  
GPA

**Topping Scholars graduate debt free**

**56%**

**5,454 hours**

**of Community  
Service**

70%

60%

50%

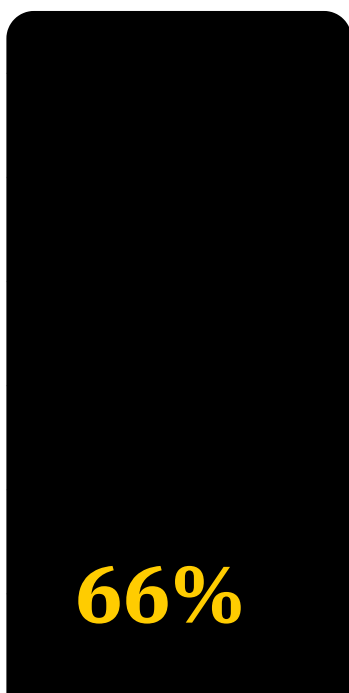
40%

30%

20%

10%

0%



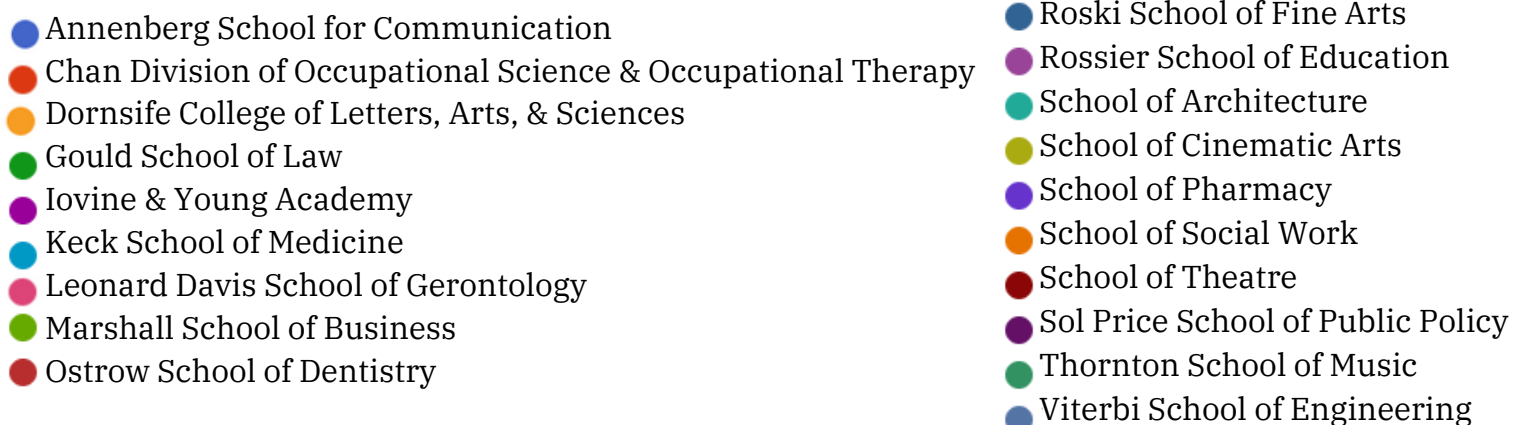
Undergraduates

Graduates

**Graduation rate  
for first-time  
Freshmen**

**100%**

# Topping Scholars & Fellows by Colleges





# Governing Board

Liam Tsao, Governing Board Chair  
Emilia Correa, Student Representative  
Melanie Franceschini, Student Representative  
Hannah Franco, Student Representative  
Hisham Nasereddin, Student Representative  
Michael Ocon, Student Representative  
Antonio Okeke, Student Representative  
Ryan Phong, Student Representative  
Rianna Rios, Student Representative  
Laurence Tarquinio, Student Representative  
Hassan Walukonde, Student Representative  
Monica Rodriguez, USC Representative  
Rajeev Arora, GSG Representative  
Selene Castillo, Topping Scholar Representative

Roxana Ontiveros, Alumni At-Large Representative  
Briana Later, Topping Alumni Representative  
Dr. Brandi Jones, Faculty Representative  
Denise Estrada, Financial Aid Representative  
Adriana Serrano Gutierrez, Admissions Representative  
Dr. David Glasgow, Assistant Vice Provost for Academic Programs (Fall 2022)  
Carina Flores, NTSAF Assistant Director (Fall 2022)  
Dr. Erica Lovano McCann, Assistant Vice Provost for Academic Programs (Spring 2023)  
Dr. Rick Trevino, NTSAF Director (Spring 2023)



# Alumni

**Let's stay connected!  
Use the QR code to  
update contact  
information, join the  
Topping LinkedIn Page,  
or leave a donation.**



# USC Office of Academic Programs

*Norman Topping Student Aid Fund*

*“Create a world that is  
human and sane,  
where life is precious  
and neighbors are  
trusted - a world so  
improved you can tell  
your children you did  
something to elevate  
rather than lower the  
human condition.”*

– Norman Hawkins  
Topping, Seventh  
President of USC  
1958 - 1970

