

## Distinguished Alumni Awards

### 2014 Awardee: **Sandra Jackson-Dumont**

If “beauty is in the eye of the beholder,” then **Sandra Jackson-Dumont** has beheld a considerable amount of beauty during her career at some of the nation’s leading art museums.

Since May of 2014, Jackson-Dumont has been the Frederick P. and Sandra P. Rose Chairman of Education at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the largest museum in the Western Hemisphere, where she is responsible for the vision and management of education and public programs as well as live arts performances and audience development designed for a diverse constituency.

The San Francisco native received a BA in art history from Sonoma State University (1994) and an MA in art history from Howard University in 1996. She was a Helena Rubinstein Curatorial Fellow at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City.

Earlier appointments include service as the Deputy Director for Education and Public Programs as well as Adjunct Curator for Modern and Contemporary Art at the Seattle Art Museum; Director

of Education & Public Programs at the Studio Museum in Harlem; and Head of School, Family and Intergenerational Programs at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York.

Known for her ability to blur the lines between academia, popular culture and non-traditional art-going communities, Jackson-Dumont has organized numerous exhibitions, lectures, performances, symposia and education initiatives. She is also a programming consultant working across communities, disciplines and sectors, and an independent curator-writer who has contributed essays to a host of publications.

She is a recipient of numerous awards and recognitions including: the Creative Leadership Award from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation,



2012: The Smartest People in Seattle’s Politics, 2013; the Greater Seattle Business Association, Humanitarian Award Finalist 2013; and Northwest Asian Weekly Foundation’s Women of Color Empowered Award, 2012. The Seattle Times, Pacific Northwest Magazine featured Jackson-Dumont with a 2011 cover story. Upon leaving Seattle, the mayor issued a proclamation naming April 26 Sandra Jackson-Dumont Day.

– Joe Gargiulo

### 2015 Awardee: **Mike McGuire**

Some people from small towns can’t wait to finish their education and flee to the “big city,” but for California State Senator Mike McGuire, his first priority was about making a difference in the local community.

McGuire is a third-generation Northern Californian whose family farmed Sonoma County’s Alexander Valley for nearly a half century. He was elected to the Healdsburg School Board at 19 years of age and helped rebuild decaying schools while earning a BA in political science at Sonoma State University (2002), followed by a Masters of public administration at San Francisco University.

He was elected to the Healdsburg City Council in 2004 as the youngest mayor in city history and was instrumental in creating one of the most successful economies in the region.

McGuire was a member of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors for one term (2011- 2015) where he helped turn years of deficit into a multi-million dollar surplus.

He has represented the Second Senate District since December 2014, a political region that stretches from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Oregon border.

A tireless advocate of the environment, his efforts have protected and preserved thousands of acres of open space, watersheds and coastline while keeping regional and state parks open to the public.

He and his wife, Erika, a local high school teacher and middle school assistant principal, live in Healdsburg.

– Joe Gargiulo



## Athletic Scholarships

Each year the SSU Alumni Association sponsors two scholarships, one male and one female, honoring SSU student athletes. To be considered for this scholarship, a student athlete must have outstanding achievements relative to intercollegiate competition, academics and community service. Each received a \$750 athletic scholarship award at “The Wolfies,” the annual SSU sports awards event.



### Jourdan Weiks, Baseball

A two-year performer at shortstop, Weiks hit .297 for the Seawolves in 2015 with a team-high 15 doubles. For his efforts, Weiks was awarded Second Team All-CCAA honors. As a junior in 2014, the Olympia, Washington native led the team in batting average and stolen bases as SSU captured the league championship.



### Noelle Herrera, Water Polo

A product of Orange, CA, Herrera received First Team All-Western Water Polo Association honors in 2015 after leading the Seawolves in goals scored with 36. She also led the entire conference in ejections earned and scored a hat trick (3 goals) in SSU's game against Stanford University, the 2nd-ranked team in the country.

## 2015 Ambrose R. Nichols, Jr. Scholar

### Dolce Preciado

**“It is not peace that brings us to wholeness, but struggle and conflict, and spiritual enlightenment only occurs when a person has been through dark and disturbing trials of the soul,”** said John A. Sanford in “Dreams and Healing.”

Dulce Preciado, the 2015 Ambrose R. Nichols, Jr. Scholarship recipient, faced the immediate challenges of an elementary school student who did not speak English after immigrating to the United States at the age of 10. She struggled through high school, but the mentoring of a teacher during junior year instilled her with the confidence to attend college and parlay her core of determination and solid family values into a promising future.

Since then she has accumulated a 3.58 grade point average at Sonoma State, interned at three organizations including two humanitarian non-profits, and worked on campus helping freshmen in the Education Opportunity Program and at-risk youth.

Preciado will be applying for the Peace Corps in the fall of 2015, and would like to teach at the community college level to empower youth as well as work for the public and non-profit sectors to carry out a social justice agenda.

“Dolce’s intellectual curiosity—her humility, thirst to learn and empower others to learn—is truly admirable and very well deserving of an academic scholarship,” wrote America F. Jimenez de Lara CEO of CandleLight Global America in his reference letter to the selection committee.

– Joe Gargiulo



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