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Alum helps other students: Cañada College graduate Dana Van Deman, for the second year in a row, is digging into her own pocket to give scholarships to two students attending a college prep program at her alma mater.

Van Deman, a student at Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss., is giving \$500 scholarships to two students in Cañada's Middle College Program.

"It really means a lot to me that she credits Middle College for some of her success and that she is doing this in a public way by giving scholarships to our students," said Middle College instructor Jen Petroelje.

This year's recipients are Benjamin Bluett Mills and Karina Murtagh, of Redwood City. Mills and Murtagh were recognized for their achievements at the Middle College graduation ceremony yesterday.

The Middle College program is for students who opted not to continue with high school and instead take pre-college courses at Cañada. Van Deman, a former Menlo-Atherton High student, went through the Middle College program at age 16 in 2000. She graduated two years later with her high school diploma and associate degree in economics, the first and only student to earn both achievements in one year.

After graduation, Van Deman established the Middle College Foundation to help students pay for college expenses.

Her goal is to earn her MBA and become the CEO of a nonprofit.

Van Deman said she hopes other organizations and businesses will donate to the foundation so that more scholarships can be awarded not only to Cañada Middle College students but to students in other middle college programs in the United States.

For more information about the Middle College Foundation, visit www.middlecollegefoundation.org