



Thank You
for making college
dreams come true
for **40 years!**

FY21





Dear Friends of 10,000 Degrees,

For 40 years, 10,000 Degrees has focused on achieving educational equity. And today, because of you, we are making great strides towards that goal!

Over 20,000 students - all from low-income backgrounds - are now college graduates! Your generosity of spirit, time, and money allowed us to award more than \$80 million in scholarships since 1981.

A college degree is the surest pathway to a healthier, happier, more prosperous future... and a more just and equitable world.

Helping students beat the odds to become college graduates takes dedication, perseverance, resilience, and, most importantly, you.

Words cannot fully express how grateful we are for you: our students, supporters, partners, donors, volunteers, board members, staff and amazing community. THANK YOU for making college dreams come true for 40 years!

With love and deep gratitude,

Kim Mazzuca
President & CEO

Caroline Silverstein
Chief Development Officer

Front cover photo: Natalia Gomez, 10,000 Degrees Alumna,
California State University-Sacramento, 2021

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10,000 DEGREES ANGEL INVESTORS

Gifts of \$250,000 and more

Investing in the education of our local students benefits everyone. We could not accomplish our goals without the dedication, commitment & enthusiasm of our most generous supporters. Thank you!

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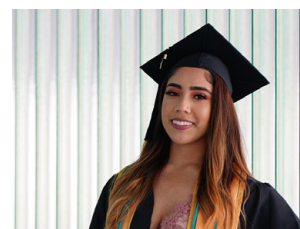
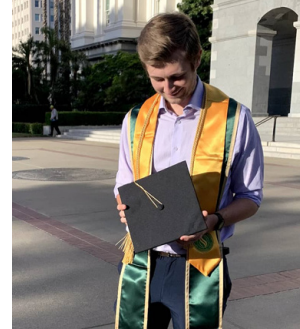
Planned Gifts

10,000 Degrees Legacy Society, also known affectionately as the Marjorie Mooney Legacy Society in recognition of our first planned gift, honors supporters who have made estate plans to benefit 10,000 Degrees. Membership in the Legacy Society is acknowledged without regard to gift level as each gift represents a lifetime commitment to supporting students from low-income backgrounds in pursuit of their dreams of graduating from college.

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Thank you for being ONE DEGREE of change!

10,000 Degrees college graduates pictured from left to right: Jordan Sandoval, Joyce Li, Mark Steccone, Noah Marty, Brandy Borrego, Essence Spencer, Jocelyn Sandoval-Franquez, Patrick Kelley, Brisia Reales, Samaria Pineda

10,000 DEGREES LAUREL SOCIETY

Multi-year pledges of \$5,000 or more annually

Thanks to continuous support from our Laurel Society, we can confidently plan for the future. Because of you, thousands of students are getting the consistent year-round support they need to get to and through college! Thank you!

Jay & Kären Abbe

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Diane & Larry Rosenberger



Diane & Larry Rosenberger

For over 20 years, Diane & Larry Rosenberg have been generous donors and supporters of 10,000 Degrees. In July 2021, Diane passed away peacefully in their home. She and Larry for married were almost 53 years.

Diane was also a 10,000 Degrees Academic Support volunteer, teaching eight-year-old second-language students at Laurel Dell Elementary School how to read and develop a love of literacy. She always went above and beyond; when she realized the children were unfamiliar with pea pods, she brought some in the next time she volunteered for everyone to enjoy.

The 10,000 Degrees Board of Directors established the Diane Rosenberg Memorial Scholarship in September of 2021 to continue Diane's lifelong legacy.

10,000 Degrees Honorary Board Member Larry Rosenberg (right)
with Academic Support Volunteer Diane Rosenberg

10,000 Degrees Donors since 2000

10,000 DEGREES DONORS

We are so grateful to our donors who generously supported 10,000 Degrees between July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.

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10,000 Degrees Board Member & South Bay Advisory Board Chair

J.D., Harvard Law School, 2006


B.A., Notre Dame University, 1999

A quality education should be something every single person can access. In my own life, I've realized that everything I've achieved is because of the educational opportunities I've had.

I served on the Board of Meritus College Fund, which merged with 10,000 Degrees in 2018. It has been a joy to see the merger make both stronger. Former Meritus students, staff, and donors are now blessed to be part of a larger, more diverse 10,000 Degrees community, poised to continue to grow and expand our impact.

I'm so excited that 10,000 Degrees launched programs in East San Jose last year! The need for college success and attainment support is enormous in the South Bay. Only 10,000 Degrees is providing a community college success program here.

Similar to the South Bay, there are no organizations like 10,000 Degrees in Utah. When the Utah Jazz NBA basketball team announced one full college scholarship for every win, I knew 10,000 Degrees would be a great partner! Through our connections to the team ownership, we introduced the Jazz to 10,000 Degrees. In the pandemic, 10,000 Degrees had learned how to successfully support students remotely. Now, we are supporting the first 30 students in Utah colleges!



10,000 Degrees is the best at the work we do – there's nobody better. I feel very proud to be able to help carry the mission forward and help us serve more students.

Ryan & Jen Sweeney with their sons

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*in honor of Chris Young and in
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Vanessa Bishop at her graduation, with her son Cortez Davis

Vanessa Bishop

10,000 Degrees Chief Program Officer

M.Ed., Harvard University Graduate School of Education, 2017

Ed.S., Walden University, 2016

M.A., Lindenwood University, 2007

B.A., University of Missouri, Saint Louis, 2003

Going to college was never not an option even though I was a first-generation college student. Education was very important in my family.

My parents were - and are still - my biggest cheerleaders. Going through the college process, there were a lot of questions I had. I wasn't aware of the resources out there that could help.

It wasn't until my third graduate degree that I realized all the resources that I had missed out on that could have helped me—with my own learning and financially. For me, this really highlights the need for supporting students in the way that we do at 10,000 Degrees. I hope that helping students access these resources makes their journeys easier than mine.

The root of education is that we should all be lifelong learners, not just from books but from other people as well.

Education helps shape who we are and how we can leave a legacy in our communities. It's how we learn and how we grow.

There were a lot of mistakes in my college journey that happened along the way. I'm proud that I didn't bend and fall to external pressures. I trusted the process that I knew nothing about, because I allowed myself to be led by my passion.

I tell everybody about how passionate our staff is and how great it is to work alongside people who look forward to coming to work every day. It's unique and I don't take that for granted. The whole staff is passionate about what we do, and I think that's really important and something that makes 10,000 Degrees special.



Vanessa Bishop at her son's graduation

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Principal Maria Cisneros (left) with Napa Valley Oak High School graduates
photo by Napa Valley Register

Maria Cisneros

**10,000 Degrees Napa Valley Advisory Board
Member since 2018**

**Principal, Valley Oak High School &
Napa Valley Independent Studies**

M.A., Sonoma State University, 1994

B.A., Sonoma State University, 1992

My parents gave up a lot to move to the US. In Mexico, I never felt that we were missing anything, so as a child it was difficult to understand why we moved. When I started talking about college, I didn't think college was going to be an option for me.

My father said we moved to the United States for a better life, a comment that stayed with me when I started investigating colleges. "Dad, when you moved us to the USA, you said it was for a better life. An education was going to give us that better life."

Education has provided me not just a better life for myself, but also for my family. I am one of ten siblings and the first to graduate from college. Through my hard work and focus, I set an example for the rest

of the family. Today, I have younger family members with college degrees and holding important jobs.

If students are able to access 10,000 Degrees and stay with it, as a high school principal, this is one of the greatest gifts I can give to graduating seniors.

I want to be able to give back to students and to families. Sometimes you don't know the systems and you don't know the process. With 10,000 Degrees, you have a guiding angel there to support you.



I attribute my life to my parents' sacrifices, but also to my education. Because education is the way the cycle of poverty can be broken.

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Alyssa Ng

10,000 Degrees Career Mentor & San Francisco Advisory Board Member
University of California, Davis, 2012
B.S. in Managerial Economics

I believe education is an important and critical tool – especially for first-generation students like myself – to remove barriers and get to places that my parents, who are immigrants, couldn't.

Even though I studied business in school, I'm also passionate about philanthropy and social justice work. This passion has followed me through life and has been with me ever since I was little. When I finished school and started working in financial services, my passions for business and giving back to my community came together.

After I was introduced to 10,000 Degrees, I knew I wanted to build a work-partnership and started a pilot program to provide internships and access to opportunities for 10,000 Degrees students. Today, 10,000 Degrees is an official internship partner!

We also piloted a career mentoring program to help align our work with scholars' career needs. 30 colleagues and 30 students from 10,000 Degrees were matched to help facilitate meaningful connections, and help the students succeed in their careers. After completing our first successful year, we are now working with 10,000 Degrees to broaden this program outside of work and make it more accessible to more scholars.

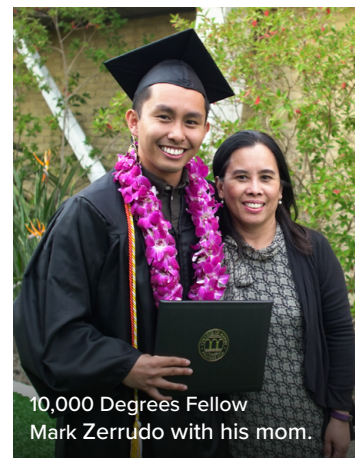
I really believe in the scholars — they are amazing. I'm always so inspired by them and their potential. I'm excited to be part of 10,000 Degrees and continue to make positive changes in my community. Thank you for the opportunity.

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Guests at the 2019 Sonoma Changemakers Dinner (from left to right): 10,000 Degrees Student and Keynote Speaker Eduardo Hernández with his parents Adriana Garcia & Nestor Hernández, Guadalupe Gloria, Dr. Rita Gloria Sawyer, Sonoma Advisory Board Members Dr. Gregory Sawyer and Dr. Gerald Jones, Mark Stapp and Khou Yang

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Pictured at right: Our ONE Amazing Community
virtually on April 24, 2021

(pictured from left to right): Deborah Goldman,
Julie & Michael Whitcomb, Spencer & Katie Fast,
Jan O'Brien & Craig Hartman,
The Sosa Cervera Family,
Eric Bindelglass & Gabrielle Tierney,
Seth & Amy Barad, Darrell & Amy Loflin,
Toby & Susan Mumford with their family,
Peter & Mary Wolfe, Mitch & Susan Cohen



This year, 10,000 Degrees celebrated a milestone—our 40th anniversary—at our virtual celebration on April 24, 2021

40 years of helping our students achieve their dreams of becoming college graduates, and 40 years of you, our ONE Amazing Community, helping to make those dreams possible!

Because of YOU, we raised over \$1.1 million to support our students from low-income backgrounds. Every dollar raised helps keep more students connected to and engaged with their education.

There were so many highlights – from the inspiring opening remarks by First Lady Dr. Jill Biden, to Senator Mike McGuire's enthusiastic emceeing, to a riveting spoken word performance by artist and 10,000 Degrees Alumna Kaila Love – and so much more.

**THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR ONE AMAZING
COMMUNITY FOR 40 YEARS!**





Board Member Denise Lucy with Honorary Board Member
Giulia Welch & Françoise LePage at 2009 Gala

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Habicht, who believed that
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Ann Aylwin & Bill Smith with their daughter, Sophie,
 with 10,000 Degrees Student Wendy Santiago,
 Margarita & Jose Santiago



Leila Mongan

10,000 Degrees Board Member since 2021

J.D., New York University School of Law, AnBryce Scholar, 2005

B.A., Stanford University, 1997

We had a lot of difficulties growing up. It made it hard to stay engaged in school, I didn't feel like school was relevant. I felt like I was surrounded by people who didn't understand what I was going through. I didn't have role models that were encouraging me to go to college.

When I got to college, I felt a little lost academically. There were many students who were ahead of me. I could've benefitted from guidance. I definitely felt that when I got to college, the expectation was, "You made it, now go figure it out on your own."

Part of what attracts me to 10,000 Degrees is the support that students get – not only to get into college – but going through the entire college system.

Looking back on it, I really feel that education is what saved me and broke me out of the struggles that my family had dealt with for so long.

Education is the way out; it's empowering and the way you can change your life. Getting that degree is a way to overcome all the circumstances that are stacked against you.

Education is a way to level the playing field and give you a chance at a different life.

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*We sincerely apologize for
any omissions or errors.
Please contact Anna Schlegel
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10,000 Degrees Students at 2015 Summer Intensive



(L to R) Justin Faggioli, Denise Bauer,
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**We are so grateful to the incredible
10,000 Degrees Staff & Team
supporting students to and
through college**



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Thank you to our
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amazing commitment to
our students is inspiring!

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STAFF WHO HAVE WORKED FOR 10,000 DEGREES:

20+ years ^{ooo}

15+ years ^{oo}

10+ years ^o

5+ years [°]



Joseph with his family at his high school graduation.

Joseph Garcia

10,000 Degrees Alumnus

10,000 Degrees Fellow, South Bay

University of California, Merced, 2021

B.A. in Sociology

I grew up in a single-parent household. I'm the third out of six siblings. I really looked up to my older siblings, but I also knew that I didn't want to have their same challenges in life.

Neither my parents nor my older siblings graduated from high school. Because of this, I feel like I have a huge responsibility to my younger siblings – I keep them in mind with whatever I do. I want them to become somebody.

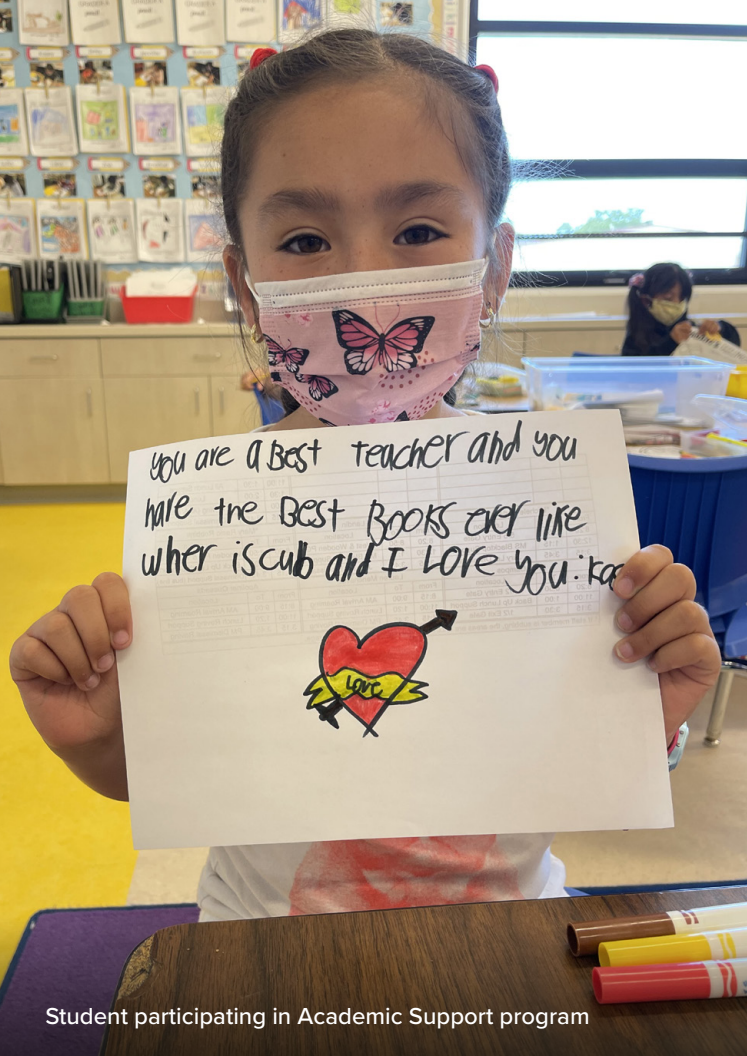
When I was a 10,000 Degrees student, then Meritus College Fund, I found people to look up to: first-generation, minority people like me. It made me feel like if they could go to college, I could do it as well. I liked the perspective 10,000 Degrees gave me and I wanted to give that to students, so I became a Fellow as soon as I graduated college.

To me, education is really important because the more you know, the more skills you have, the more you're able to obtain, the more doors open for you.

The best piece of advice I can give current college students is to trust your instincts and never give up. First-gen, low-income students often don't have someone to look up to and that can be challenging. Don't ever feel like you're unimportant or invalid. At the end of the day, we're all achieving the same goal.



I liked the perspective 10,000 Degrees gave me and I wanted to give that to students, so I became a Fellow as soon as I graduated college.



Student participating in Academic Support program



Academic Support Volunteer, Susan King, with student



Students participating in Academic Support program

10,000 DEGREES ACADEMIC SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS

Thank you for being ONE DEGREE of change!

10,000 Degrees Academic Support matches volunteer tutors with students from low-income backgrounds in Marin County public schools.

Established in 1997 as Marin County School of Volunteers, the organization began with 40 volunteers in five Marin County public schools. 10,000 Degrees Academic Support now has 100+ volunteers serving 2,500 students in 25 Marin County schools providing academic tutoring, virtual classroom support, and homework assistance. During the pandemic, our volunteers have continued to meet students where they are and shifted all of their tutoring work & support to be virtual.

We are grateful for our dedicated volunteers and partnering schools. Thank you for all you do to bring the 10,000 Degrees Academic Support program to our Marin County students!

Thank you to our Academic Support Volunteers who devoted their time to 10,000 Degrees students during the 2020 - 21 School year.

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Pat Carlone	Chris Hurwitz	Frances Nelson	Sheila Starr
Sybil Cary	Dan Joaquin	Maria Orendorff	Ashley Sternfels
Valeria Cuba	Earl Johnson	Hayley Palk	Carol Tabb
Rebekah Cunningham	Charlotte Kells	Ned Pinger	Rebecca Thompson
Stephanie Dal Porto	Barbara Killey	Michelle Polli	Mavis Wall
Mary Elmstrom	Noele Kostelic	Matthew Quint	Eliza Warde
Wendy Erickson	Dotti Kuchem	Suzanne Reich	Lucinda Watson
Garbo Gan	Daniel Kunstler	Jay Ripps	Gillian Wheelock
Elizabeth Ganz	Kay Law	Bob Rosenberg	Becky White
Kenneth George	Henri Lese	Diane Rosenberger	Dawn Wilburn-Saboe
Leslie Gerstenfeld	Anne Lieberman	Anne Rozsa	Sandy Williams
Peter Goetz	Deanna Lutzeier	Suzanne Rush	Averel Wilson
Richard Greene	Samantha Lyons	Karen Santiago	Laurence Wolf
Ingrid Gron	Madeline Martin	Frances Scher	Diane Ziesing
Elizabeth Hannon	Monica Mehra	Ellen Seh	
Robert Healy	Janette Meza	Patricia Shea	
David Heneghan	Christie Michaels	Fred Silverman	
Kim High	Laura Monterosso	Dorothy Slattery	

Monica Mehra

10,000 Degrees Academic Support Volunteer &

Marin Advisory Board Member

**Securitized Products Portfolio Manager at
Loomis, Sayles & Company**

M.B.A., Columbia University, 2009


B.S., Cornell University in Engineering, 2003

I've seen the inequity in education, especially in Marin. I felt there was a need for help and was inspired by the 10,000 Degrees students and staff to help close that gap.

I work at an investment company called Loomis Sayles and I knew I wanted to hire 10,000 Degrees students. I recommended a partnership between Loomis and 10,000 Degrees to hire interns every year – we now have our first 10,000 Degrees alumna full-time hire!

Through the 10,000 Degrees Academic Support program, I've also been tutoring women in advanced-level math. I love working with women who either love math or may not really like math, but I help them to see that they can do it – and help them to overcome these barriers.

As I've gotten to know the 10,000 Degrees students, both as an Academic Support tutor and as a manager of several interns at Loomis, I've seen how much 10,000 Degrees can do for students. Many didn't even know there was a path to college. But 10,000 Degrees guides them on this path, and stays with them through their whole college journey.



“Going to college is what helps you get to where you want to be in life, to support yourself and take care of your family. Education is the great equalizer.”

Monica (right) with her husband Clay Armistead and their daughters

10,000 DEGREES ACADEMIC SUPPORT PARTNERING SCHOOLS FOR THE 2020 - 21 SCHOOL YEAR

Thank you for your belief in our students!

Bolinas-Stinson Union School District

Bolinas-Stinson Elementary

Mill Valley Elementary School District

Mill Valley Middle

Novato Unified School District

Hamilton Meadow Park

Loma Verde Elementary

Lu Sutton Elementary

Lynwood Elementary

Novato High

Olive Elementary

San Jose Intermediate

San Marin High

San Rafael City Elementary

Bahia Vista Elementary

Coleman Elementary

James B. Davidson Middle

Laurel Dell Elementary

San Pedro Elementary

Venetia Valley K-8

San Rafael City High

San Rafael High

Terra Linda High

Sausalito-Marin City School District

Bayside Martin Luther King Jr. Academy

Shoreline Unified School District

Bodega Bay Elementary

Inverness Elementary

Tomales Elementary

Tomales High

West Marin Elementary

Tamalpais Union School District

Tamalpais High

We sincerely apologize for any omissions or errors. Please contact Anna Schlegel to correct our records: aschlegel@10000degrees.org or 415-451-4013.



10,000 Degrees Fellow Brissa Teodoro (right) with 8th Grade Bayside Martin Luther King Jr. Academy "Panthers Get Degrees" graduates



10,000 Degrees Program Staff at 2018 ONE Amazing Night Gala

Jessica Mena Flores

10,000 Degrees Alumna & Contra Costa Board Member

M.A., Iowa State University 2019

B.A., Sonoma State University, 2017

**Undocumented Graduate Student Specialist & Marco Antonio Firebaugh
Scholars Coordinator, Office for Graduate Diversity at UC Berkeley**

I identify as a first-generation college graduate, a woman of color from a single-parent and undocumented household.

Higher education didn't seem like a possibility for me when I first started looking into colleges. I felt discouraged because of my identities, my family or friends didn't have first-hand knowledge and couldn't support me in this process. At that time, my options were very limited.

I saw education as a survival mechanism, and as an additional tool to sustain myself and my community. Being an educator now and being on the other side, I'm able to assess what the needs are for students and pave the way for others to make it through college.

I joined the Contra Costa Advisory Board so that I could gain professional development experience. I also wanted to give back and to help others, especially students who share similar identities as me. I'm very grateful for the support I received from 10,000 Degrees when I was a student and wanted to return the appreciation to 10,000 Degrees.

A portrait of Jessica Mena Flores, a woman with long dark hair, smiling and wearing large blue floral earrings. The portrait is positioned on the right side of the page, partially overlapping the yellow background.

“I’m very grateful for the support I received from 10,000 Degrees when I was a student and wanted to return the appreciation to 10,000 Degrees.”



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San Rafael, California 94903

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