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Press Release

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Petaluma Educational Foundation's Scholarship Awards Celebrate Success of City-Wide Outstanding Class of 2010

Proving that the sky is the limit for individual academic success, in spite of the worst economic collapse in CA state educational funding, a monumental 255 scholarship awards totaling \$194,300 have been presented to the brightest and best 2010 graduates from Petaluma's seven high schools.

Outstanding students represented San Antonio, Valley Oaks, Sonoma Mountain and Carpe Diem Alternative High Schools, Casa Grande, Petaluma and Saint Vincent de Paul High Schools at the Petaluma Educational Foundation's annual scholarship reception at the Sheraton Hotel.

Exuding continued prowess in academic, sporting and community involvement, enhanced personal awareness and impressive displays of self esteem, these remarkable young people of Petaluma received financial scholarship awards ranging from \$200 in college funding monies to substantial \$8,000 checks towards nursing school tuition, thanks to scholarship beneficiaries such as the Maxwell and Doris Decker RN Scholarship.

"The highlight of my year is to be able to match the intentions of our scholarship donors with the deserving students who have achieved impressive results and have some really great stories to tell. " said Ken Dennett, PEF Board Chair of the Scholarship Committee

Petaluma High School's star running back, Ricky Sims was awarded a Gene Benedetti Memorial Scholarship of \$1,500 for outstanding contributions to sports, along with Petaluma High School's Holly Bacon. Sims was also named one of this year's two \$500 Trey Atkins Memorial Scholarship recipients along with fellow PHS Senior, Brittnie Bonds.

Some of the declared majors and double majors for these college-bound scholarship recipients include: bio engineering; microbiology and medicine; viticulture and oenology; business administration and jazz performance; earth and planetary science; chemistry; mechanical engineering; physics; math; psychology; computer science; graphic design; journalism; nutrition and economics; broadcasting; physical therapy; kinesiology; nursing; music; international relations; pre-law; languages; sociology; anthropology; film; theater; wildlife; screen writing; neurobiology; law enforcement; marine biology; sports medicine and childhood development.

Petaluma's Class of 2010 will be traveling as far as Oxford, England to pursue four year college degrees at a myriad of universities including Davis, Berkeley, Bard, LA, Chapman, Tufts, Harvard, Stanford, Georgetown, San Francisco, Oregon, Santa Cruz, Humboldt, San Luis Obispo, Occidental and Princeton.

Santa Rosa Junior College continues to attract high achieving students looking to transfer into four-year colleges after obtaining their general education requirement or to pursue vocational certificates in their chosen careers.

Nursing students Colleen Cooper of Saint Vincent de Paul High School and Alexis Halstenson of Casa Grande High School were each the recipients of the Decker \$8,000 scholarship awards, with Petaluma High School's Erika Hernandez, the first person in her family to attend college and the recipient of the Decker annual scholarship's \$4,000 award.

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