

NEWS INFORMATION

Release: IMMEDIATE, May 16, 2014
Contact: M. T. McCabe, Publicity Chair

news@equalityscholarship.org
(415) 282-1592

17 STUDENTS HONORED
FOR SERVICE TO THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY

San Francisco, May 16, 2014 – eQuality Scholarship Collaborative has announced the recipients of its 2014 scholarships, presented at the 25th Annual Awards Dinner held this evening at the Hotel Nikko in San Francisco.

Seventeen young leaders from throughout the State were honored and recognized for their service to the LGBTQ community. Thirteen graduating high school seniors received \$6,000 scholarships toward their post-secondary education. Two community college transfer scholarships, a new category this year, and two medical scholarships also were awarded.

This year's high school recipients include:

- Rosewitha Niebauer of South Tahoe High School
- Samuel Blanchard of Sir Francis Drake High School in Fairfax
- Cassie Contreras of Buchanan High School in Fresno
- Neeozzi Dickerson of Sonoma Valley High School
- Laura Jacobs of Windsor High School
- Lara Loesel of Oak Ridge High School in El Dorado Hills

- Esteban Baiz of Orestimba High School in Newman
- Schuyler Borges of Bakersfield High School
- Jennifer Chen of Branham High School in Campbell
- Maximus Yearian of City Arts and Technology High School in San Francisco

Community College Transfer scholars include:

- Katrina Craton of Butte Community College in Chico
- Victor Romos of Santa Rosa Junior College

Medical scholars are:

- Greg Zahner of the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine
- Michael Nedelman of the Stanford University School of Medicine.

Three additional students from Oakland, Pacifica, and Walnut Creek also received awards.

The scholarships will be applied at institutions from Fresno City College to Georgetown University and in studies ranging from Arts Education to Linguistic Anthropology.

Many of the awardees are founders or office-holders in their high school's Gay-Straight Alliance or similar clubs, working to provide safe spaces for all youth. Their activism is evidenced by a broad array of projects ranging from implementation of California's School Success and Opportunity Act to marriage equality to LGBTQ veteran experiences with trauma and recovery. In many cases, their service has extended to other social service and civic initiatives.

eQuality is celebrating its Silver Jubilee this year and a quarter century of fostering student leadership. Federal, State, and local dignitaries lauded eQuality on the occasion.

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan commended the recipients on their, “...service, leadership, and academic achievement.”

Congress member Nancy Pelosi wrote, in part, “As the first all-volunteer organization of your kind, you stand as a shining example of the good that can be accomplished by fostering diversity in our community.”

Governor Jerry Brown noted that, “Many of the scholarship recipients have gone on to distinguish themselves through continued activism and service to their communities.”

State Senator Mark Leno added, “Your work is inspiring and unites the importance of diversity and education.”

Assemblymember Tom Ammiano concluded, “This visionary work has promoted tolerance, diversity, and inclusion in communities across California.”

San Francisco Supervisor Scott Wiener was on hand to present his resolution of commendation to the eQuality Scholarship Collaborative on its Silver Jubilee.

The 2014 Awards Dinner was eQuality’s largest event yet, with over \$100,000 distributed. Over the past 25 years, the Collaborative has provided well over three-quarter million dollars in financial assistance to more than 250 graduating high school seniors, as well as nursing and medical students. It is California’s premier LGBTQ and ally youth service-recognition program. When founded in 1989, it was the first such organization of its kind in the nation.

eQuality is supported by LGBT employee resource groups from Genentech, Kaiser Permanente, KPMG, and PG&E, as well as nonprofit members, the Gay-Straight Alliance Network and Out & Equal Workplace Advocates, and numerous individual donors and volunteers. eQuality Scholarship Collaborative is a fiscally sponsored project of the Gay-Straight Alliance Network.

More information is available through the Collaborative's web site, www.equalityscholarship.org.

- 30 -

Photo and interview opportunities are available

eQuality Scholarship Collaborative, P.O. Box 191311, San Francisco, CA 94119-1311

Member Organizations:

PG&E PrideNetwork, KP Pride, Genentech Out & Equal, Pride@KPMG, Out & Equal Workplace Advocates, and GSA Network