

**NEWS INFORMATION**

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**23 STUDENTS HONORED  
FOR SERVICE TO THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY**

San Francisco, May 20, 2016 – The eQuality Scholarship Collaborative has announced the recipients of its 2016 scholarships, presented at the 27th Awards Dinner held this evening at the Hotel Nikko in San Francisco.

The event set records for eQuality, with \$138,000 awarded to 23 students. This is also a milestone year for eQuality, having now distributed well over \$1 million since the first scholarship was awarded in 1989.

Student leaders from throughout California were honored and recognized for their service to the LGBTQ community. Eighteen graduating high school seniors received \$6,000 scholarships toward their post-secondary education. Two nursing scholarships and three medical scholarships also were awarded.

This year's high school recipients include:

- Bethany Abaurrea, Woodland Senior High School, Woodland
- Roxas Allen, Summit High School, San Jose
- Cole Bannick, Half Moon Bay High School, Half Moon Bay
- Kate Chalomentiarana, Lick-Wilmerding High School, San Francisco
- Aaron Chen, Wallenberg High School, San Francisco
- Vincent Gleizer, University High School, Clovis

- Jay Hitomi, Las Lomas High School, Walnut Creek
- Ray Laventure, Dougherty Valley High School, San Ramon
- Amara Radetsky, Tamalpais High School, Mill Valley
- Maryalice Rosa, Lodi High School, Lodi
- Kathryn Scarry, Mission College Preparatory, San Luis Obispo
- Joey Tan, Davis Senior High School, Davis
- Stanley Valenton, St. Ignatius College Preparatory, San Francisco
- Jared Winn-Taryor, Berkeley High School, Berkeley
- Mya Worrell, Folsom High School, Folsom
- Jasmine Yong, Oakdale High School, Oakdale

Two additional students from Porterville and Clovis also received awards.

Nursing scholars include:

- Gerald Franks, Yuba College
- Jorge Rosales, Merritt College

Medical scholars are

- Huan Dong, Charles R. Drew University/UCLA
- Dustin Plowman, UC Riverside
- Nix Sitkin, Yale University

The scholarships will be applied at institutions from CSU Sacramento to New York University and in studies ranging from neurobiology to vocal performance.

Many of the awardees are founders or leaders in their high school's LGBTQ clubs, providing safe spaces for all youth. Their activism is evidenced by a broad array of projects ranging from educational equity to gender neutrality to mental health services. In many cases,

their service has extended to other social service and civic initiatives.

Over the past 27 years, eQuality has provided financial assistance to more than 300 graduating high school seniors, as well as community college, 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 LGBTQ employee resource groups from Genentech, Kaiser Permanente, KPMG, and PG&E, as well as nonprofit members, GSA Network, the Horizons Foundation, and Out & Equal Workplace Advocates, and numerous individual donors and volunteers. The eQuality Scholarship Collaborative is a fiscally sponsored project of the Horizons Foundation.

More information is available through eQuality's web site, [www.equalityscholarship.org](http://www.equalityscholarship.org).

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*Photo and interview opportunities are available*