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NEWS INFORMATION

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

San Francisco, May 15, 2015 – eQuality Scholarship Collaborative has announced the recipients of its 2015 scholarships, presented at the 26th Awards Dinner held this evening at the Hotel Nikko in San Francisco.

The event set records for eQuality, with well over \$100,000 awarded to 18 students.

Young leaders from throughout California were honored and recognized for their service to the LGBTQ community. Twelve graduating high school seniors received \$6,000 scholarships toward their post-secondary education. A new \$12,000, four-year scholarship also was awarded to an additional graduating high school senior. Two nursing scholarships and three medical scholarships also were awarded.

This year's high school recipients include:

- Carson Blumen-Green of Sequoia High School in San Carlos
- Miranda Carvalho of Santa Teresa High School in San Jose
- Thea Miller of Albany High School

- Kyle Norman of Granite Hills High School in Porterville
- John Oberholzer of Oakland Technical High School
- Rachelle Pabalan of Oakdale High School
- Joemae Santos of South Tahoe High School
- Remy Amaral Tapia of Mission High School in San Francisco
- Mauricio Vides of James Lick High School in San Jose.

The recipient of the new \$12,000, four-year scholarship is:

- Matthew Yeung of California High School in San Ramon.

Nursing scholars include:

- Jasmine Rivera of CSU San Marcos

Medical scholars are

- Jerome Chelliah of UCSF School of Medicine
- Vincent Lee of UC Davis School of Medicine
- Vivian Partida of Touro University California in Vallejo.

Four additional students from Belmont, Castro Valley, San Francisco, and South Lake Tahoe also received awards.

The scholarships will be applied at institutions from Skyline College to Brown University and in studies ranging from cosmetology to symbolic systems.

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 educational equity to marriage equality to emergency mental health intervention. In many cases, their service has extended to other social service and civic initiatives.

Over the past 26 years, eQuality has provided almost one million dollars in financial assistance to more than 270 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 Horizons Foundation and Out & Equal Workplace Advocates, and numerous individual donors and volunteers. eQuality Scholarship Collaborative is a fiscally sponsored project of the Horizons Foundation.

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

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Photo and interview opportunities are available

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Member Organizations:

PG&E PrideNetwork, KP Pride, Genentech Out & Equal, Pride@KPMG, Out & Equal Workplace Advocates, and Horizons Foundation