*NEWS INFORMATION*

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### 18 STUDENTS HONORED
### FOR SERVICE TO THE LGBT+ COMMUNITY

San Francisco, May 12, 2017 – eQuality Scholarship Collaborative has announced the recipients of its 2017 scholarships, presented at the 28th Awards Dinner held this evening at the Hotel Nikko in San Francisco.

eQuality awarded $108,000 to 18 students, bringing the total distributed to well over $1.1 million since the first scholarship was awarded in 1989.

Student leaders from throughout California were honored and recognized for their service to the LGBT+ community. Twelve graduating high school seniors received $6,000 scholarships toward their post-secondary education. Six community college transfer student, nursing, and medical students were also awarded $6,000 scholarships.

This year's high school recipients include:

- Claire Bekker, Monte Vista High School, Danville

- Allyson Chiu, Cupertino High School, Cupertino

- Melanie Harra, John O'Connell High School, San Francisco

- Lani Komatsu, Sequoia High School, Redwood City

- Cal Larisch, Washington High School, Fremont

- Katie Ly, Alameda High School, Alameda

- Hannah Manoucheri, Oak Ridge High School, El Dorado Hills

- Isa Moreno, Watsonville High School, Watsonville

- Niq Muldrow, San Ramon Valley High School, Danville

- Derek Sportsman, Orcutt Academy High School, Santa Maria

This year's community college transfer scholar is Jo Call, a graduate of Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill. The 2017 nursing scholar is Cora Lee Garcia, who is attending UC San Francisco. The four medical scholars are:

- Dani Wang, UC Davis

- Alejandro Hurtado

- Aaron Louie, UC San Francisco

- Patrick Martin-Tuite, UC Berkeley/UC San Francisco

The scholarships will be applied at institutions from University of Southern California to Pace University and in studies ranging from physics to gender studies.

Many of the awardees are founders or leaders in their high school's LGBT+ 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 28 years, eQuality has provided financial assistance to more than 300 students. It is California's premier LGBT+ 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, GSA Network, Horizons Foundation, and Out & Equal Workplace Advocates, and numerous individual donors and volunteers. eQuality Scholarship Collaborative is a fiscally sponsored project of Horizons

Foundation.

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

- 30 -

_Photo and interview opportunities are available_