

NEWS INFORMATION

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**19 STUDENTS HONORED
FOR SERVICE TO THE LGBT+ COMMUNITY**

San Francisco, May 11, 2018 – eQuality Scholarship Collaborative has announced the recipients of its 2018 scholarships, presented at the 29th Awards Dinner held this evening at Delancey Street Town Hall in San Francisco.

eQuality awarded \$114,000 to 19 students, bringing the total distributed to well over \$1.3 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. Seven community college transfer student and medical students were also awarded \$6,000 scholarships.

This year's high school recipients are:

- Kaitlin Alcontin and Ella Burk, Encinal High School, Alameda
- Justin Arellano, Oak Ridge High School, El Dorado Hills
- Danny Charney, Alameda High School
- Ryan de Kock, Arroyo Grande High School
- Rocket Drew, Davis Senior High School
- Rowan Graening, Folsom High School
- Jeremiah Jewell, Eureka High School

- Marvin Matamoros, Mission High School, San Francisco
- Alexandra Rocha-Alvarez, Watsonville High School
- Teague Shattuck, Abraham Lincoln High School, San Jose
- Staci Tilley, Orcutt Academy High School, Santa Maria

This year's community college transfer scholar is graduating from City College of San Francisco. The scholarships will be applied at institutions from Sierra College to San Francisco State University, UC Berkeley, and Yale University and in studies ranging from social work to chemistry.

The six medical scholars are:

- Jason Gomez, Stanford
- Chris Alabastro, UCLA
- Enrique Guzmán van Dyken, UC Davis
- Danny Hoang, UCLA
- Elaine Hsiang, UCSF
- Aileen Portugal, Southern Illinois University

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.

"Receiving...the eQuality Scholarship not only helped validate all the work that I had to do, but it allowed me to show my school that these are issues other people care about...and made me feel that there's something greater helping me move the bar forward," said Portugal, who grew up in San Diego, via a video shown at the awards dinner.

Over the past 29 years, eQuality has provided financial assistance to more than 350 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 the nonprofit organizations 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.

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Photo and interview opportunities are available