

California Wine Grape Growers Foundation Awards Nearly \$30,000 in Scholarships

Sacramento, Calif., May 17, 2011 -- The California Wine Grape Growers Foundation (CWGGF) has awarded 10 high school seniors with nearly \$30,000 in scholarships, including a one-time special scholarship to a student overcoming exceptional challenges. These scholarships support the educational dreams of students whose parents are vineyard employees of winegrape growers. Congratulations to this year's winners:

Four-year Scholarship Recipients

Tucker Marsano, Mission College Preparatory, San Luis Obispo
Hugo Luna, Esparto High School, Esparto

Two-year Scholarship Recipients

Laura Arechiga, Kelseyville High School, Kelseyville
Ernesto Gutierrez, Delta High School, Clarksburg
Jose Lua, Santa Maria High School, Santa Maria
Jhosselyn Vargas, Parlier High School, Parlier

One-time, Special Award Recipient

Salvador Jimenez, Lompoc High School, Lompoc

Susan Berban of Allan Hancock College is this year's recipient of the Robert N. Miller Scholarship, awarded exclusively to Central Coast students who plan to major in or are currently enrolled in viticulture and enology programs at Alan Hancock Community College or California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly). The Miller family established the scholarship in 2006 to honor Robert Miller's memory, his passion for innovation and his commitment to enhance the Central Coast wine growing business.

CWGGF also administers the Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance scholarship, which is designed to engage local community and encourage higher education. Recipients were Vanessa Stevens from Paso Robles High School, \$1,000 and Emmanuel Jimenez, also from Paso Robles High School, \$1,000.

"In 13 years the Foundation has given nearly one-quarter of a million dollars to children of vineyard employees," said Board Chair J.R. Shannon. "These scholarships make it possible for students to attend college, increase their education and hopefully come back to make a difference in their communities."

The California Wine Grape Growers Foundation was created in 1999 by the California Association of Winegrape Growers to perpetuate a scholarship program it created in 1998. The program awards education scholarships to high school seniors whose parents or legal guardians are vineyard employees of wine grape growers. For more information and applications, visit www.cwggf.org or call 800 241-1800.

About the Scholarship Winners

Four-year Scholarships

Tucker Marsano
Mission College Prep

Tucker is interested in marketing and advertising. "When I was a little kid, going to the vineyard with my Dad and watching him work was just something fun we could do together, but as I have grown over the years I can now appreciate the sense of hard work and dedication my father instilled in me at such a young age."

Hugo Luna
Esparto High School

Hugo plans to study international business. "I have learned that regardless of where you stand in the world, your dreams and aspirations can be reached with self motivation and positive guidance."

Two-year Scholarships

Laura Arechiga
Kelseyville High School

Laura is interested in nursing and web design. "Some people want to go to college to have a better quality of life, I want to go to college to get an education so I can make a difference in my community."

Ernesto Gutierrez
Delta High School

Ernesto wants to become a high school teacher. "English is my second language and after living in this country for only five years I have conquered many challenges that have impeded me from transcending the fate of the predecessors in my family."

Jose Lua
Santa Maria High School

Jose plans to study crop science and one day run his own farm. "Knowing how much my parents have suffered in order for my siblings and me to have a better education is the reason I am still in school and will further my education to repay them for everything they have done for us."

Jhosselyn Vargas
Parlier High School

Jhosselyn wants to one day work as a translator. "My parents and I always find time to talk about the importance of getting an education, something they were deprived of as children."

Robert N. Miller Scholarship

Susan Berban
Allan Hancock College

Susan is currently majoring in viticulture and hopes to transfer to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo next year. "We are fortunate to have a vineyard and winery on campus that the community college level and I enjoy telling both fellow students and future students about our viticulture and enology program."

Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance Scholarship

Vanessa Stevens
Paso Robles High School

Vanessa plans to study environmental science and have a career in conservation. "Behind me I hope to leave the legacy of community move toward 'eco-consciousness' while my future lies somewhere hundreds of miles away."

Emmanuel Jimenez
Paso Robles High School

Emmanuel hopes to become an engineer. "I believe that the two most important factors that either can create or change my dreams are family and community."

One-Time Special Award

Salvador Jimenez
Lompoc High School

Salvador hopes to become an oncologist after being diagnosed with Leukemia during his sophomore year in high school. "I want to demonstrate to the new generations that success is possible when dedication, strength and motivation are present."