RCC program helps high school students win scholarships

Five high school graduates who participated in the Rogue Community College TRiO Educational Talent Search have received college scholarships from the Ford Family Foundation Scholars Program.

The five, three of whom graduated from Eagle Point High School and two from South Medford High School in 2011, were among 120 students selected out of 4,726 applicants from Oregon and Siskiyou County as new Ford Scholars. The renewable scholarship covers 90 percent of each student’s unmet financial need for college each academic year. The Ford Family Foundation is a private, non-profit foundation located in Roseburg.

TRiO Talent Search helps first-generation, low-income middle and high school students in Jackson County gain access to postsecondary resources.

“We help take the financial burden off our students and their families by absorbing the costs of college applications and testing fees,” said Liz Fletcher, a TRiO transition specialist. “We also take them on college trips, offer educational workshops, and work one-on-one with our students on college/scholarship applications and interviews,” she continued. “These five students were in our offices probably every day during their senior year, so they really deserve this money — they’ve worked immensely hard for it.”

Eagle Point High School award recipients:

Daniel Cardenas will attend Southern Oregon University as a criminal justice major. He’s worked 48-hour weeks as the breadwinner for his family since the age of 15. He also volunteers for his church, maintained a 3.0 GPA, and was a varsity athlete in track and football.

Maribel Barajas graduated with a 4.0 GPA and was class valedictorian. She has worked a part-time job for three years to help support her family and participated in sports and extensive volunteer activities. She will be a pre-med major at University of Portland.

Ya Zhen Jen Tan immigrated to the United States from China when she was 13. A 4.0 GPA student and valedictorian, she will attend University of Oregon as a math major. She works a part-time job and volunteers many hours.
South Medford High School award recipients:

Ashlee Dawn Marshall has been living independently on her own since she was 14 and took care of her younger brother for a couple of years. Graduating with a 3.8 GPA, she will be a pre-medical major at U of O in the fall.

Kelsey Watkins, who graduated with a 3.9 GPA, also will attend the University of Oregon.

The Ford Scholars Program is open to graduating high school seniors and continuing community college students who are pursuing a bachelor’s degree at a four-year college. Eligibility criteria include financial need and merit. Scholars must attend an accredited nonprofit college in Oregon full time.

For information about TRiO Talent Search, visit www.roguecc.edu/TRIOETS.

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