



Westlands Water District

3130 N. Fresno Street, P.O. Box 6056, Fresno, California 93703-6056, (559) 224-1523, FAX (559) 241-6277

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Contact: Gayle Holman
(559) 241-6233

Westlands Water District Announces Recipients of the West Side Scholarships

FRESNO – Five outstanding high school seniors from communities on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley have been selected to receive scholarships offered by the Westlands Water District. The 2012 scholarships are offered by Westlands under a program to recognize and reward exceptional academic achievement and leadership by graduate seniors at area high schools.

The recipients of the 2012 scholarships are:

Michaela Walker, a senior at Coalinga High School. Ms. Walker is an honors student who plans on pursuing a college degree in comparative literature and sociology and eventually plans on obtaining a law degree. Ms. Walker has been involved in a variety of school activities including Mock Trial, the Ivy League Project, Varsity Tennis and the Academic Talent Development Program at Berkeley.

Lilliana Toste, a senior at Lemoore High School. Ms. Toste is planning to pursue a degree in speech-language pathology. She has been active in the California Scholastic Federation, Associated Student Body, Dairy Princess Program and tennis. Additionally, she has been a Student of the Month and a community service volunteer.

Erika Guzman, a senior at Firebaugh High School. Ms. Guzman plans to attend University of California Riverside to pursue a degree in nursing. She is an honors student and has participated in cheer, volleyball, softball and swimming. Additionally, she has held the office of Class President and has done a considerable amount of volunteer work for the community.

Stacey Barrera, a senior at Mendota High School. Ms. Barrera intends to pursue her education in chemical engineering. She has been an active member of cross country, track, performing band, the cooking club and reading club. Additionally, she has received an Outstanding Academic Achievement Award and an award from the

California Mathematic Council recognizing her efforts for exemplary mathematics achievement.

Alejandra Rojas, a senior at Riverdale High School. Ms. Rojas plans on attending Boston University to pursue her degrees in biochemistry and psychology with the goal of becoming a forensic scientist. She is an honors student ranked first in her class who was active in the Explorer's Club, Link Crew and Book Club. Additionally, she has held the offices of Treasurer, President and Vice President for various clubs.

Each scholarship recipient will receive \$1,000 to be used for community college or university expenses. Applicants were judged on their academic performance, school activities and community leadership. Each applicant submitted an essay on an agricultural-related topic.

"Westlands is honored to provide this assistance for these outstanding student leaders," said Tom Birmingham, general manager of Westlands. "These scholarships represent a small gesture of thanks and support to the communities on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley that make our region such a productive and vibrant place."

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