



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 – Six 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 2013 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 2013 scholarships are:

Luis Ruvalcaba, a senior at Firebaugh High School. Mr. Ruvalcaba is an honors student who plans on pursuing a college degree in civil engineering. Mr. Ruvalcaba has been involved in a variety of school activities including Link Crew, FFA, and the Boys & Girls Club. Additionally, he has been Senior Class President and FFA Treasurer.

Zurisadai Hernandez, a senior at Mendota High School. Ms. Hernandez is planning to pursue a degree in communications. She has been active in the National Chess Champions and is an honor roll student. She has also spent a considerable amount of time organizing fundraisers and has helped a number of people in her community.

Daniel Burke, a senior at Coalinga High School. Mr. Burke plans on attending UC Davis to pursue a degree in computer engineering. He is an honors student and has participated in FFA and is an active tennis player. Additionally, he is a member of the California Scholarship Federation and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Jennifer Gudgel, a senior at Lemoore Union High School. Ms. Gudgel intends to pursue her education in business. She has been an active member of choir and band, and has participated extensively on the volleyball team. She has also been a Choir Club Vice President, JV Volleyball Team Captain, and Varsity Swim Team Captain.

Marcos Ortiz, a senior at Tranquillity High School. Mr. Ortiz plans on attending UCLA to obtain a degree in business with an emphasis in economics. He has been active in FFA,

Cross Country, and ASB Leadership. Additionally, he is an honor roll student and was the only student among twenty-four students to pass the A.P. U.S. History exam.

Eduardo Solorio Ayala, a senior at Riverdale High School. Mr. Ayala intends to pursue a degree in education. He has been Senior Class President, a California Scholarship Federation recipient, Student of the Year, Student of the Month and Honor Roll member. Additionally, he participated in helping his community by volunteering for a number of programs.

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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