Students Honored at Annual Academic Excellence Awards Ceremony

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NORWALK, Calif. – April 15, 2014 – Twenty-one scholarship winners and 59 student award winners were honored on Thursday evening, April 8 at Cerritos College’s annual Academic Excellence Awards ceremony in the Burnight Center Theatre.

The Academic Excellence Awards were created in 1981 to recognize the academic accomplishments of students in various departments throughout the college. The college believes that students recognized at the ceremony are some of the finest examples of how Cerritos College is fulfilling its mission by building futures through learning, and is excited to see what the future holds for these students who have made academic excellence a priority in the pursuit of their education.

Students must meet rigorous criteria including the completion of a minimum of 20 units at Cerritos College with a 3.5 grade point average or higher, the completion of nine units in the area of recognition with a 3.5 grade points average or higher, and the recommendation of a faculty member in the area of recognition.

This year’s ceremony began with greetings by Dr. Linda Lacy, Cerritos College President/Superintendent.

Following the welcomes, the audience enjoyed an elegant musical piece “Autumn Leaves” written by Joseph Kosma, performed by music student John Conti.

The keynote speakers Dr. Frank Gaik and Dr. Linda Palumbo, professors of English, encouraged students to stay positive, pursue dreams and work hard towards goals. The enlightening speech was followed by the foundation scholarship awards and the Academic Excellence Awards.

Each student’s story shared that evening was truly inspiring and it will surely encourage others to aspire to excellence.

Scholarship recipients:

Richard McGrath Memorial Scholarship
Kody Williams
Edward Bloomfield Philosophy Scholarship
Earvin Chavez

Dr. Jack Hoekzema Scholarship
Alexandra Fox

Dr. Keith Allen Hinrichsen Scholarship
Rocio Aguilar
Viridiana Inguanzo
Erin Wroe

English Department Scholarship
Shahpari Davoodifard
Kathryn Violago

Roger Ernest Creative Writing Scholarship
Abner Caguioa
Lisa Mendez

Joan Licari Scholarship
Elyse Warren

LoVetere Geography Scholarship
Elyse Warren

John Boyle Scholarship
Ronak Zebarjedi

Jules Crane Scholarship
Cindy Guzman

U.S.S. Pelias Scholarship
Eduardo Benavidez
Gerardo Franco

Newton Werner Scholarship
Jocelyn Ochoa

Demian/Carreon Scholarship
Marena William

Glorya Welch Scholarship
Jacob Perez

Paige “Scholar” Scholarship
Jacob Perez
Alex Salas

The Academic Excellence Awards
Vanessa Alvarez, Accounting - Business Accounting
Amanda Barney, Dental Hygiene
Diane Bartosch, Paralegal
Nicole Bautista, Court Reporting & Captioning Careers
Jose Becerra, Pipe Welding
Stephany Beltran, French
David Boss, Computer Science
Rhonda Brown-Palacios, Business - Retail Management
Abner Caguioa, English - Creative Writing
Oscar Cazares, Machine Tool Technology - Machinist
Earvin Chavez, Philosophy
Samantha Chavez, Zoology
John Conti, Commercial Music
Shahpari Davoodifar, English
Janet Figueroa, Art & Design
Gabriel Garcia, Music
Monica Gomez, Speech - Language Pathology Assistant
Kelli Grinden, Court Reporting & Captioning Careers
Cindy Guzman De La Rocha, Biology
Cindy Med Heng, Engineering Design & Production Technology
David Huang, Computer & Information Sciences - Programmer
Constantin Iancu, Plastics Mfg. Technology - Composite Mfg.
Dalia Jimenez, Economics
Harry Kim-Park, Arc Welding
Amalia Lira, Psychology
Taylor Lloyd, Pre-Medical
Eric Loucks, Woodworking Mfg. Technology - Cabinetmaking
Dyan Lundby, Court Reporting & Captioning Careers
Manuel Machado, Physical Education - Athletic Trainer Aid
Raymond Mangahas, Computer & Information Sciences - Systems Analyst
Angela Mariscal, Real Estate
Matthew Meza, Structural Fabrication
Maria Montoya, Pre-Pharmacy
Rya Morris, Anthropology
Randy Moruzzi, Plastics Mfg. Technology - Composite Inspection
James Nelson, Microbiology
Jocelyn Ochoa, Chemistry
Jose Orejel, Spanish
Gloria Padilla, Cosmetology
Marcia Palacio-Golchuk, Child Development - Early Childhood
Chelsea Panopio, Nursing - RN
Jacob Perez, Mathematics
Jacob Perez, Physics
Talena Perez, Medical Assistant
Shivanjali Reddy, Physical Therapist Assistant
Ronnie Reyes, Advanced Accounting
Ted Rogers, Plastics Mfg. Technology - Tool Design
Hilda Ruvalcaba, Woodworking Mfg. Technology - Furniture Making
Alex Salas, Natural Sciences
Lily Shen, Pre-Veterinary Medicine
Brian Sholes, Dance
April Tamashiro, Physical Education - Fitness Specialist
Cesar Torres, Chinese
Harold Velez, Engineering Design Technology
Carissa Walker, Child Development
Kody Williams, Administration of Justice
Erin Wroe, History
Brandon Ybarra, Gas Tungsten Arc Welding

Congratulations to all of the scholarship and award winners!

About Cerritos College: Cerritos College serves as a comprehensive community college for southeastern Los Angeles County. Communities within the college’s district include Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, Norwalk, and portions of Bell Gardens, Lakewood, Long Beach, Santa Fe Springs and South Gate. Cerritos College offers degrees and certificates in more than 180 areas of study in nine divisions. Annually, more than 1,200
students successfully complete their course of studies, and enrollment currently averages 23,000 students. Visit Cerritos College online at http://www.cerritos.edu/.