

## Sacramento City Unified School District Board presents Certificate of Appreciation to TPNA

February 18, 2016

Remarks from Scholarship Committee Chair Bill Motmans upon accepting certificate:

"A little over a decade ago, when I was first elected the Tahoe Park Neighborhood Association president, the then TPNA vice president, Ed Sanders, came to me with an idea to award scholarships to deserving Hiram Johnson seniors who would be going on to 4-year colleges and universities. BUT THERE WAS A TWIST!

Usually scholarships are awarded based mostly on the student's academic achievements.

Ed's vision was to recognize and reward that student who didn't necessarily have the 4.0 or 4.0+ G.P.A. These scholarships would not rely solely on these statistics, but on the young person whose grades were not necessarily among the leaders, but had demonstrated an ability to overcome challenging socioeconomic circumstances, or perhaps from a home where English was a second language--perhaps no one from their family had an opportunity for higher education.

To get a better picture, applicants were asked to include an essay, "What Community Service Means to Me" with their application.

Over the years, the emphasis and consideration for the academic and other achievement has changed and evolved somewhat, but that desire and commitment to higher education while overcoming challenges is one of the most important components TPNA evaluates when considering awardees.

Now, having awarded over [then: over \$42,000, now: over \$50,000] to approximately 70 graduates, we continue to be amazed and inspired by these young scholars.

Let me read you a quote from an essay from an awardee a few years ago:

"My version of community service is showing the world that there are diamonds in the rough, that there is talent of every sort in every neighborhood of the United States, and that even in the darkest of shadows, light can be found in every color, shape, and form."

This young man, from a single parent household, was also the financial breadwinner for the family.

Over the years we have enjoyed the support of local businesses, as well as former Council member McCarty, and current Council member Eric Guerra, along with numerous parent and teacher associations.

Overwhelmingly, however, it's the support from the community which keeps us going.

On behalf of the Tahoe Park Neighborhood Association, thank you for this recognition."