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Supporting Higher Education and Cultural Enrichment in the Eastern Sierra

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Mammoth Lakes Foundation Awards 14 College Scholarships for Spring 2012

A wide range of students awarded scholarships to Cerro Coso College

Mammoth Lakes, CA – The Mammoth Lakes Foundation recently completed its review of scholarship applications for the Spring 2012 semester at Cerro Coso and, thanks to its supporters, awarded a total of 14 scholarships to local students. The recipients must be local residents, maintain a GPA of at least 2.5, be enrolled full-time, and on-the-ground at Cerro Coso – Mammoth Campus. In addition they must provide volunteer time at a minimum of 20 hours. This spring’s scholarship recipients range from recent high school grads to long-time locals pursuing vocational nursing certification, to Mammoth transplants. For some of the scholarship winners it is their first semester, for other it’s the last time—next fall for them will mean transferring to a four-year university having successfully completed their two-year Associates Degree at Cerro Coso.

“We are thrilled to provide financial support to so many worthy residents allowing them to take a step forward in their life in the place they love,” commented Maya Weinhart, Executive Director of the Mammoth Lakes Foundation. “The Foundation takes its mission seriously and awarding scholarships for tuition and books is making it possible for these young people to attend college.”

This semester’s scholarship winners are: Kelly Goodick, Priscila Guerrero, Angela Harvey, Lisa Hostetter, Lane Jacobson, Steven Kutsch, Michele Larson, Cesar Medina, Becky Monroy, Rebekah Rowan, Dwight Saunders, Taylor Strawn, Maria G. Vasquez, and Carla Weaver.

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As part of the application process students write a letter to explain what receipt of the scholarship will mean to them and their future. A sampling of comments include the following: "...Asking for help is difficult for me since I pride myself in being completely self-sufficient...I come from a low-income family so the only support I receive from them is emotional and moral support...this scholarship would...help me move a step closer to my goal of educating others all over the world. I am very hopeful that my future has great things in store for me and in a few years I can be college educated with a rewarding career...Thank you..."

Another scholarship recipient wrote in part, "...I've reached a time in my life where I find myself extremely motivated to see what I can do to see my dreams come to fruition...Ultimately this place [Mammoth Lakes] restored my will to seek progress and constantly push myself. I'm proud to call this place my home and extremely grateful for this wonderful scholarship opportunity provided to the town locals."

Maria G. Vasquez completes her Cerro Coso education this spring and plans to transfer to a four-year university. Her time as a Mammoth Lakes Foundation scholarship awardee has seen her throw herself wholeheartedly into her studies and her volunteer work—actually being awarded Volunteer of the Year at the Friends of the Foundation Dinner this past December 3.

"We are proud of all our scholarship students and what they have achieved and are achieving today," added Weinhart. "Seeing so many students successfully complete the next step in their education, assisted by the efforts of all who contribute to the Mammoth Lakes Foundation, is very gratifying for all of us who are involved."

The Mammoth Lakes Foundation is dedicated to supporting higher education and cultural enrichment in the Eastern Sierra. Recent successes include supporting Cerro Coso Community College, which graduated its largest class of students in 2010, creating a state-of-the-art student apartment facility, and providing scholarships to 29 students in the 2011/2012 school year. For more information or to make a tax deductible donation please contact the Foundation at (760) 934-3781 or visit www.mammothlakesfoundation.org. Our nonprofit work is only possible through your generosity.

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