

News Release

For Immediate Release: November 16, 2016

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American Heritage Scholarship Program Focuses on “Who has the Power to Legalize Recreational Marijuana” – Essay Contest Winners to be Honored on Thursday, November 17

This fall, 195 high school juniors and seniors from throughout the county participated in the **American Heritage Scholarship Series** essay contest, a competition sponsored by The Modesto Bee in partnership with the Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) and Modesto City Schools. Nineteen students will be honored for their essays at an awards ceremony on **Thursday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Board Room** at **SCOE** (1100 H Street, Modesto). The public is invited to attend.

A total of \$10,000 in scholarships awards will be presented:

One.....\$2,000 scholarship
Two.....\$1,500 scholarships
Two.....\$1,000 scholarships
Four.....\$500 scholarships
Ten.....\$100 scholarships

The American Heritage Scholarship is [possible](#) thanks to [the support of organizations and individuals who contribute to the success of](#) the program. Scholarship sponsors include: Jack & Pam Able, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo, Bank of Stockton, Ramon & Barbara Bawanan, Tom & Dianne Changnon, Mike Dunbar, E. & J. Gallo Winery, Danielle Emel, James & Carol Enochs, Robert Hampton & Teresa Alley, Judy Herrero, Curtis & Nancy Grant, Kiwanis Club of Greater Turlock, Fred & Susan Rich, Modesto Rotary, North Modesto Kiwanis Club, James & Peggy Shiovitz, Waterford Lions Club, and Sue Zwahlen.

Teaching students and adults to think critically about issues affecting the United States, and increasing their awareness of what it means to be an American, are the goals of the American Heritage Scholarship Program. At the September 27 presentation, Jeffrey Darnell, John Lee, and Michael Vitello, focused on who has the right to legalize recreational marijuana. Students had to discuss who they believed should have the rights to legalize recreational marijuana; state, federal, or local governments. The students were asked to support their responses with information from the presentation, their knowledge of U.S. History and government, and cite a minimum of three other scholarly sources.

An audience of community members and students attended the presentation. “The American Heritage program continues to be an outstanding model of community collaboration,” said Tom Changnon, Stanislaus County Superintendent of Schools. “I believe it is a model in highlighting the importance of the civic mission of public education.”

A group of local educators, editors, community leaders, Superior Court Judges and representatives from the legal community judged the essays.

Those slated to be honored include:

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	SCHOOL
Rachel	Brown	Whitmore Charter High
Jose	Carranza	Johansen High
Ashley	Chan	Gregori High
Gabriela	Chavez	Central Valley High
Emily	Doxey	Gregori High
Jessica	Doxey	Gregori High
Madelyn	Doxey	Gregori High
Denae	Fargo	Johansen High
Abigail	Fletcher	Whitmore Charter High
Hannah	Hernandez	Gregori High
Anne	Homer	Oakdale High
Taryn	Lane	Oakdale High
Savannah	Larsen	Oakdale High
Azriel	Montalvo	Whitmore Charter High
Anna	Rohrer	Whitmore Charter High
Jenna	Tobin	Gregori High
Annalise	Vander Veen	Oakdale High
Elizabeth	White	Oakdale High
Daniyel	Wiggins	Whitmore Charter High