**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**For Immediate Release**

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**Students honored for resilience, strength**

*Foundation for Clovis Schools awards scholarships*

Sixteen high school students who have made education a priority in the midst of facing heart-wrenching challenges were celebrated as Students of Promise April 10 by the Foundation for Clovis Schools.

“For a lot of teenagers – and even adults – the challenges these students face every day might get the best of them,” said Foundation Chairperson Mike Fennacy. “But the perseverance and courage they show daily by showing up to school and giving their very best is incredibly inspiring.”

Each year the Foundation for Clovis Schools, a nonprofit organization that supports Clovis Unified School District, selects 16 students in their junior year to receive a $2,000 Students of Promise scholarship upon completion of high school and enrollment in further education.

“We want them to know that we see their determination and efforts, and we see promise in them. This scholarship and celebration are how we can show we believe in them and their future,” Fennacy said.

The gala event honored the 2024 Students of Promise recipients and included a red-carpet walk, candelabra dinner and presentation ceremony.

Students are nominated for the scholarship by their school counselor, selected by a Foundation committee, and surprised with the news in late January. They have faced a variety of adversity, ranging from loss of a loved one to medical issues to housing displacement.

“They are living examples of the strength of the human spirit and a reminder of all that can be accomplished through hard work and belief in oneself.,” said Superintendent Corrine Folmer, Ed.D.

Keynote speaker Destanie Yarbrough was a 2007 Student of Promise and Clovis East High graduate who is a professional Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fighter, women’s tackle football player, and has also recently returned to the district and as a Student Relations Liaison at Gateway High.

“Don’t forget that growth always comes with challenges, [and]… be open to learning from both success and failure,” she advised the recipients. “The mindset of success, whether it be short-term or long-term success, turns a setback into a comeback.”

This year’s Students of Promise are Antinik Ayers, Anthony Bryan, Mikenzi Burt, Kellen Davis, Paris Fernandez, Hadlee Framsted, Hudson Lemon, Yolanda Maeshiro, Maya Mendez, Christopher Nguyen, Phu Nguyen, Lexi O’Connor, Layna Patendis, Lilly Shaw, Samantha Silva, Moses Uribe.

The Foundation for Clovis Schools is a fundraising organization made up of local volunteers who work to provide scholarships and classroom grants to enhance the experience of Clovis Unified students. The Students of Promise program began in 2001 to recognize at-risk students who attend school on a regular basis, show responsibility and succeed academically while at the same time facing challenging life circumstances outside of school.

Learn more at FoundationForClovisSchools.com.

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**Community Partners:**

This year’s Students of Promise event was supported by several community partners who helped make the student scholarships possible. The Foundation would like to thank the *Superintendent’s Circle Sponsors*: The Cook Family; Educational Employees Credit Union; Mark Wilson Construction; and Producers Dairy; *Premier Sponsors*: C-III Construction; California Health Sciences University; FFB Bank; Golden State Steel; Precision Civil Engineering, Inc.; Pro-Screen/Fan In a Box; and *Contributing Sponsors*: Community West Bank; Elite Landscape Construction; Inc.; JD Food; Net Positive Consulting Engineers; and Wild Electric.