



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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9HEALTH FAIR AWARDS 9 ALAN D. LAFF SCHOLARSHIPS; NEW ADVOCACY AWARDS

DENVER – The 9Health Fair *In the Classroom* program awarded more than \$10,000 in scholarships and awards to student leaders at the 2012 Alan D. Laff Awards Luncheon held recently at 9News. Nine students who plan to pursue a health related career each received the Alan D. Laff Scholarship worth \$1,000 to be applied toward their education.

- **Sandra Acevedo** (Palisade High School)
- **Rohit Gupta** (Grandview High School)
- **Jack Haen** (Our Lady of Fatima Catholic school)
- **Aimee Ledall** (Eaton High School)
- **Danielle Marcello** (Holy Family High School)
- **Nicholas Marcello** (Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School)
- **Sarah Maronick** (Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School)
- **Delaney Tanner** (Grandview High School)
- **Alexander Zenk** (Frontier Academy High School in Greeley)

Students receiving an Alan D. Laff scholarship participated as a student leader in a 9Health Fair *In the Classroom* fair during their school career, attended a middle or high school and are between the ages of 13-19, are involved in school, community, and extracurricular activities, plan to attend college upon graduation, and have maintained a minimum grade point average of 3.0.

The scholarships are named after longtime 9Health Fair volunteer, Alan Laff. Laff volunteered for 9Health Fair for more than 10 years in a variety of capacities, including chairman of the organization's Board of Trustees. Friends of the Laff Family sponsored the scholarship.

The new Advocacy Awards, called "Agents of Change", were awarded to high school students for their health advocacy projects. Sponsored in part by Children's Hospital Colorado, each project received between \$500 and \$1,000. The awarded projects were:

- The Dangerous Decibels Project, created by Jeremy Loutensock and Matthew Golden from Holyoke High School, was designed to help kids test their music headphones and understand acceptable volume ranges to protect their hearing.

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- Eating Disorder Awareness Week, created and implemented by Madi O'Dell, was designed so that students can talk to peers about eating disorders and understand where to get help if they need it.
- The Welcome to Wonderful Wellness, designed by the Wellness Steering Committee at Merino High School was aimed at getting students to be excited about physical activity and eating well. They promoted contests within the school. Alex Kirschbaum and Anna Kindvall accepted the award on behalf of the Wellness Steering Committee.
- Find Your Voice, designed by the Rangeview High School DECA Club, was aimed at suicide prevention and getting people to open up and accept others. Matthew Mejia, Alessandra Tsing, and Diana Rojas accepted the award on behalf of the DECA Club.

About 9Health Fair

9Health Fair is Colorado's largest non-profit, volunteer-driven health fair program that promotes health awareness and encourages individuals to assume responsibility for their own health. Created by a National Institutes of Health project and 9NEWS, 9Health Fair's free and low cost health screenings and education program has earned unique endorsements from the Colorado Medical Society, the Colorado Nurses Association and the Colorado Hospital Association. Since 1980, 9Health Fair has impacted 1.7 million lives. As an independent non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, major sponsors for the 2012 9Health Fair include 9NEWS, Quest Diagnostics, King Soopers/City Market. Special thanks to The Colorado National Guard for its continued support through delivering supplies to volunteers and sites around the state.

For over 30 years The **In the Classroom** Program has served as many as 70 schools each school year with training, technical support and interactive health education stations so that student leaders can put on their own health fair, teaching their peers about healthy behaviors and choices. Children's Hospital Colorado's mission is to be the driving force, in partnership with others, to provide children and their families with an integrated pediatric healthcare delivery system and to be a national leader in pediatric research and education.

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