

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cerritos College Foundation Awards Three Auto Scholarships - Jeannie M.T. Yang and SMCDA Scholarships Honor Outstanding Students

NORWALK, Calif. – March 31, 2010 – The Cerritos College Foundation awarded three automotive scholarships to six promising students at its board meeting Thursday, March 18. The Jeannie M.T. Yang Scholarship, a \$500 award was presented to Yong Man Hong of Norwalk and Obdulio Rivera of Los Angeles. The Jeannie M.T. Yang Automotive Scholarship awards a total of \$2,000 each year to four promising students in the automotive department at Cerritos College. Established in memory of Dr. Jeannie M.T. Yang, a community college professor originally from mainland China, who had a great passion for education.

Yong Man is currently enrolled in the Import Technician Training Program (ITTP) and plans on passing the Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) exams and becoming a master technician at a local dealership.

Obdulio Rivera is working toward his bachelor's degree in automotive marketing at Northwood University. He currently works at Buerge Chrysler Jeep in West Los Angeles as a technician and has a second job at Pep Boys as a service consultant. His ultimate goals include earning a master's degree, managing a new car dealership, and giving back to the automotive industry and Cerritos College.

The SMCDA Automotive Technology Scholarship, a \$500 tool voucher toward the purchase of MATCO tools was received by Jose Hernandez, III, Irwin Merida and Hector Arellano-Garcia, Jr. This scholarship was designed to assist the college's automotive apprentice program students in purchasing tools to use in their classes. The tool voucher, combined with the 50% tool discount program which MATCO also provides for Cerritos College automotive students, is actually worth \$1,000.

Jose Hernandez, of Baldwin Park, began taking automotive classes his senior year in high school. With one more semester to go, Hernandez has maintained a GPA of 3.76 and is employed at Glendora Dodge. He is interested in designing engines for future vehicles.

Irwin Merida, of Los Angeles, is in his second semester of the ITTP program and is working toward his associate degree in automotive technology. Upon completing his associate degree at Cerritos College, Irwin plans on enrolling in Northwood University to pursue his bachelor's in automotive marketing and management.

Arellano-Garcia, of North Hollywood, is working toward his associate degree in automotive technology. He plans on becoming an ASE certified master technician and transferring to Northwood University.

SMCDA also presented the \$750 SMCDA Northwood 3rd Year Scholarship to Christian Rodriguez of South Gate. This award assists Cerritos College students who have completed their first two years in automotive technology training and are pursuing their bachelor's degree through Northwood University.

Christian Rodriguez will be graduating from Cerritos College this semester with his associate degree in automotive technology and will be enrolling in Northwood University this fall to pursue a bachelor's degree in automotive marketing and management. He looks forward to working at a Ford or GM dealership and eventually opening his own business.

“These outstanding students will be great assets to the auto industry,” said Todd Leutheuser, executive director of the Southland Motor Car Dealers Association (SMCDA), as he presented each student with the scholarship. “Our goal with these scholarships is to assist these students in reaching their career goals in the automotive industry.”

The Southland Motor Car Dealers Association represents franchised new car dealers throughout Southern Los Angeles County.

Cerritos College has offered automotive training technology since the college began in 1955. The offerings consist of certificates degrees and special programs in the disciplines of automotive repair, advanced transportation technology, auto collision repair, intelligent transportation systems and alternative fuel and EV hybrid vehicles, making it one of the most comprehensive programs in the U.S. Students can also earn a bachelor’s degree in automotive management at Cerritos College through an agreement the college has with Northwood University.

Cerritos College’s Auto Technology Program provides students with hands-on, nationally authorized training for GM, Ford, Chrysler and import vehicles. The College also hosts an Advanced Transportation Technology Center, one of nine Centers in the state of California, to encourage use and development of clean, renewable energies, and alternative fuel sources.

The Cerritos College Foundation, a non-profit organization, serves as a charitable vehicle for the community, individuals and alumni, to assist with financial support of Cerritos College. Visit the Foundation online at www.cerritos.edu/ccf.

Cerritos College serves as a comprehensive community college for southeastern Los Angeles County. Communities within the college’s district include Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, Norwalk, and portions of Bell Gardens, Lakewood, Long Beach, Santa Fe Springs and South Gate. Cerritos College offers degrees and certificates in more than 180 areas of study in nine divisions. Annually, more than 1,200 students successfully complete their course of studies, and enrollment currently averages 23,000 students. Visit Cerritos College online at <http://www.cerritos.edu/>.

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