

For Immediate Release

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CARSON, CALIFORNIA - Kathy Fruth was selected as the 2005 Robert Hashimoto Memorial Scholarship recipient. The Rancho Dominguez Alumni Association (RDAA) awards this scholarship annually to a California State University Dominguez Hills student that has a record of campus leadership, community involvement, and academic achievement. It can be used to pay tuition or purchase textbooks.

The Hashimoto Scholarship is funded by earnings from an endowment with the University's Foundation. The endowment is invested in a conservative portfolio of bonds and stocks. The Rancho Dominguez Alumni Association (RDAA) established the scholarship in 2000 to honor the memory of Sigma Pi Fraternity Brother, Robert Hashimoto. He was a CSUDH student studying business and accounting.

Robert is remembered for being a positive force in the community while he attended college. Thus, one of the guiding principles of the scholarship is that students, who are a positive force for improving the community, should be recognized.

While attending CSUDH, Kathy has been involved in a number of activities that help disadvantaged children. She is active in her local parent teacher organization, and serves as a member of the Torrance Unified School District School Site Steering Committee. Kathy has also been directly involved in bringing fine arts education directly into public school classrooms. Most of these students would have been deprived of exposure to fine arts if it were not for Kathy's volunteer efforts. In addition to her busy class schedule, she volunteers with programs that offer after-school sports programs to public school students.

Fruth is studying psychology and hopes to apply her knowledge toward helping children with lower socio-economic backgrounds. She recognizes that many families in the South Bay Area cannot support the financial and emotional needs of their children. After graduation, she will focus her efforts on children from families with a history of abuse and neglect. Kathy also wants to help children from non-English speaking homes integrate into mainstream education. Her career goal is to give local children what they desperately need: academic assistance, guidance with long-term goals, and emotional support to assist them in becoming successful students, workers, and future mentors.

The scholarship attracted many well-qualified applicants who are active in their community. RDAA President David Parikh said, "I was really impressed with the applications this year. We also had more students applying this year than any time in the past. The quality of students at CSU Dominguez Hills is impressive. The Scholarship Committee had a hard time picking a winner. It's unfortunate we only have enough funds to award one scholarship this year."

Rene Sabio, former CSUDH ASB President added, "Kathy is an asset to our community. It's true that kids are our future, and I am proud that we can honor Brother Hashimoto's memory by awarding this scholarship to someone like Kathy. I wish her well with her studies."