

# THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

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## San Bernardino County Housing Authority hands out scholarships

By DUANE W. GANG  
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SAN BERNARDINO - For 24 students who live in public housing, a little extra help in paying for college is welcome.

They got that boost Wednesday when the Housing Authority of San Bernardino County awarded \$20,500 worth of scholarships to help cover expenses as the students enter college in the fall.

In its 16th year, the program is part of an effort by the authority to offer more than just housing assistance, said Dan Nackerman, the agency's executive director.

"It is not something we have to do. It is something we like to do and find the money for," Nackerman said. "This proves that people are not the product of their environment."

Sixteen of the students were at the authority's monthly board meeting to receive the awards. In total, 19 students received \$1,000 scholarships and five received \$500 each.

There is no age requirement for the scholarships and students can apply each year, even after they are enrolled in college.

The only requirements are a demonstrated financial need to continue with education, acceptance or enrollment in a four-year, community or vocational college, and residence in public housing owned by the Housing Authority or a participant in the Section 8 housing voucher program.

"This was not an easy process to get here today," Nackerman told the students. "You really accomplished a lot."

George Guerrero, chairman of the authority's Board of Commissioners, said the funding for the scholarships does not come from federal money set aside for housing. Instead, it comes from other revenue sources and is set aside specifically for the scholarships.

"I have to congratulate you all," he said.

The students on hand at the Hilton in San Bernardino to receive scholarships Wednesday are either already enrolled or planning to attend a host of Inland-area colleges -- from Cal State San Bernardino and UC Riverside to Chaffey College and San Bernardino Valley College.

Warren Owusu, 17, of San Bernardino, plans to attend Cal Poly Pomona to study electrical engineering. He said the scholarship will mean he will have to work less during the school year, freeing up time for his studies.

"I have a better opportunity," he said.

Jennie Barranco, 18, of San Bernardino, plans to study math at UCR. "Most students don't know there are lots of scholarships out there, including where you live," she said.