

## **Housing Authority scholarships surprise recipients**

Selicia Kennedy-Ross, Staff Writer

8/09/2007

SAN BERNARDINO - Angelica Espinoza couldn't believe it when she heard she'd won a \$1,000 college scholarship.

Espinoza, a sophomore at Cal State San Bernardino, is one of 24 students who received a college scholarship Aug. 1 from the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino.

Espinoza, 19, is actually a two-time winner of the award. She will put the money toward her studies at Cal State, where she majors in nursing and hopes to become a registered nurse.

The scholarship will help with expenses like books, which Espinoza said "can get pretty expensive when you're studying nursing."

"I was pretty surprised I got it," the San Bernardino resident said. "I didn't think I'd get it a second time."

Espinoza, who lives with her family in San Bernardino's public housing, said she hopes to someday buy her family a house.

The one-year grants are either \$1,000 for students who will attend a four-year college or university and \$500 for those who will attend a community college or vocational or technical school.

There are no age limits to qualify for the scholarship. Financial need, acceptance at an accredited college or vocational school and participation in the Housing

Authority's housing program are needed to apply, said Dan Nackerman, the agency's executive director.

Last year, the agency gave a \$1,000 grant to a 78-year-old who was returning to school, Nackerman said.

"It's a competitive process. We had over 60 applicants and the winners were selected by committee," said Alison Crawford, director of administrative services.

"The program has really grown and we're very proud of it."

Nineteen students who have been accepted to a four-year college or university or who are already attending one received \$1,000 grants. Five more were awarded \$500 grants toward attending or continuing a community college or vocational school.

The Housing Authority has awarded \$130,000 in scholarships to more than 180 students in the past 16 years.

Several of the recipients noted Aug. 1 that they plan to use the scholarship for an education that will help them get off public assistance.

Scholarship winner Tamisha Newsom, who is aided by Section 8 housing, said the scholarship money will go right toward her books.

"I was happy and shocked at the same time - and I was screaming," she said.

Newsom, who attends San Bernardino Valley College where she studies computer information technology, was worried she couldn't afford her textbooks after she added up the cost of the books for the semester.

"It's going to help me out a lot," she said.

(c) 2007 The Sun. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Media NewsGroup, Inc. by NewsBank, Inc.