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The California Museum “Challenges” the Next Generation Dreamers Challenge Offers Scholarship to Innovative High School Seniors

(Sacramento, CA) – The California Museum launches the second annual California Hall of Fame-inspired Dreamers Challenge scholarship competition today. This year, a 2010 graduating high school senior from both Northern and Southern California will be awarded \$5,000 each, underwritten by Comcast.

"I encourage California students to share their dreams by participating in this challenge," State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell said. "The Dreamer's Challenge Scholarship fosters innovation and creativity, traits that can help make the world a better place. I applaud Comcast for underwriting the scholarship awards for this contest and helping to make the dream of a college education come true for two student winners."

The Dreamers Challenge scholarship was created in 2008 by The California Museum as an extension of the California Hall of Fame year-round program sponsored by Chevron Corporation and Accenture. The program is designed to reward innovative and creative thinking. Unlike other scholarships, the Dreamers Challenge asks a new generation of visionaries what they would do to change the world. Participants can respond in whatever medium suits their style and talent – painting, poetry, videos, musical creations, essays or Power Point presentations, for example.

"The California Museum's goal is to educate and inspire future generations," said The California Museum's Executive Director Claudia French. "Every generation has its Dreamers. Just look at the Museum's California Hall of Fame. These individuals are synonymous with the innovation and creativity that is the spirit and leadership of this country. Who will be the Steve Jobs, Amelia Earhart, Frank Gehry, John Muir or Billie Jean King of the next generation?"

First Lady Maria Shriver will recognize the winners at the 2009 California Hall of Fame induction ceremony in December. The Dreamers Challenge is supported by Comcast and the California State Fair and Exposition.

The California Hall of Fame, the hallmark institution and exhibition housed in The California Museum honors legendary Californians who are pioneers in their fields of study, occupation or philanthropy. The Governor and First Lady honor them in a ceremony every December, followed by a yearlong exhibition dedicated to each inductee. The California Hall of Fame serves as an educational resource for teachers looking to teach students about the culture and history of California's diverse population and people.

The California Museum's mission is to engage, educate and enlighten people about California's rich and diverse history. The Museum is dedicated to helping educators, students and administrators understand state history and the various contributions California has made in the world of ideas, innovation, art and culture.

Entries must be mailed into the Museum no later than October 5th. For more information on the rules of the scholarship and how to submit entries, visit CaliforniaMuseum.org.

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About The California Museum

The California Museum – home of the California Hall of Fame and California Legacy Trails – engages, educates and enlightens people about California's rich history and its unique contribution to the world through ideas, innovation, art and culture. Through captivating, interactive and innovative experiences, the Museum seeks to inspire men, women and children to dream the California dream and dare to make their mark on history. Open Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. Noon-5 p.m.; Adults \$8.50, Students/Seniors (with valid I.D.) \$7, Children 6-13 \$6.00; Free for Children 5 and Younger. Parking is free on the weekends. CaliforniaMuseum.org.