



Dare to Make History

1020 O Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.californiamuseum.org

(916) 653-7524 • fax: (916) 653-0314

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Contact: Ashley S. Robinson
(916) 651-3030
(916) 717-8539 (Cell)

**The California Museum Announces
California Dreamers Scholarship Challenge Winner
Comcast Doubles Prize Money**

[Sacramento, California] - The California Museum, home of the California Hall of Fame partnered with Comcast and the California State Fair and Exposition (CalExpo) in August to present a challenge to California high school seniors: Tell us how your dream will leave a lasting mark on the state, nation and the world.

"Comcast is honored to support the vision of the California Hall of Fame and First Lady Maria Shriver in recognizing the critical importance of inspiring the next generation of leaders and investing in our future. We are proud to be a partner in the first ever 'California Dreaming' scholarship opportunity. At Comcast, we know that the future of our great state is dependent on providing each and every child the opportunity to succeed and that is why we're pleased to partner with the California Hall of Fame," said Steve White, Comcast Senior Vice President.

Seeking out the next Walt Disneys, Cesar Chavezes and Alice Walkers, the Museum asked students to think outside the box by sending in paintings, poems, video productions, music, essays or whatever format would allow them to answer the challenge. In response, The California Museum received 254 thought-provoking, imaginative and personal entries from all over the state and from a diverse group of students.

One student described how she would combine her love for cosmetology with her desire to help those with cancer by opening a beauty shop that was dedicated to providing real hair wigs to those who have lost their hair. Another entry described how she would start a volunteer program to help returning soldiers.

The grand prizewinner is 18-year-old Elena Muruato of Los Angeles. Elena is a high school senior at Pueblo de Los Angeles Continuation High School in East Los Angeles. Her inspiring, heartfelt and detailed essay was about providing services to the children of fallen soldiers, titled "Helping Heroes."

Elena, and her moth, also received airfare and accommodations to accept her award at the opening remarks by First Lady Maria Shriver before the California Hall of Fame ceremony on December 15th.

The scholarship had originally been for \$5,000 but at the last minute, Comcast decided to double the scholarship prize to \$10,000.

You can view the picture of Elena accepting her award here:

<http://www.californiamuseum.org/about/press/images/dreamers-challenge-winner>

The winner and all honorable mentions will receive a letter of congratulations from the Governor.

The ten honorable mention winners include:

- Alexander Adsit of San Leandro
- Allison Bauer of Solana Beach
- Kelsey Broersma of Yucaipa
- Shaudi Malek of San Diego
- Amber Parrot of Orange
- Haley Robertson of San Diego
- Katelyn Ridgeway of Bonsall
- Cheryl Smith of Mission Viejo
- Vanessa Tuepker of Anderson
- Alan Vien Bui of Ontario

All entries can viewed on the Museum's website, californiamuseum.org.

The California looks forward to continuing their partnership with Comcast, CalExpo, and the California Department of Education for next year's Dreamers Challenge.

The 2008 California Hall of Fame presenting sponsors are Chevron Corporation and Accenture.

About The California Museum

The California Museum -- home of the California Hall of Fame and California Legacy Trails -- is a cultural destination dedicated to telling the rich history of California and its unique influence on the world of ideas, innovation, art and culture. We advance our mission to inspire through educating school children through dynamic exhibits and educational programs, as well as serving as a public forum and international meeting place. The California Museum is located at 1020 O Street, (Corner of 10th Street), downtown Sacramento. For more information 916.653.7524, info@californiamuseum.org, www.californiamuseum.org.

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