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Record \$79,050 in Scholarships Awarded at New Haven Schools Foundation Ceremony

Union City, Calif., April 29, 2014 – The New Haven Schools Foundation (NHSF) announced today that it distributed a record-setting \$79,050 in college scholarships to 77 graduating seniors at its annual “Pathways to Success” luncheon. With an increase of \$9,000 over last year’s total, this is the most ever awarded since the nonprofit Foundation was formed.

Scholarships are funded by individuals, businesses, and organizations via a program coordinated by NHSF to manage the application and selection processes. Additionally, many teachers and employees in the New Haven Unified School District contribute to the scholarship fund via a deduction from every paycheck, demonstrating their ongoing commitment to education.

Two special individuals who have contributed greatly to the Foundation were recognized at the event. First, Barbara Aro-Valle was given the 2014 Guy Emanuele Community Service Award in appreciation for her years of dedicated work as a volunteer, board member, and as the former Executive Director of the Foundation. She was also presented with her portrait, created by artist Andrew Johnstone, given by her husband and keynote speaker, Alameda County Supervisor Richard Valle.

The Tom Kitayama Business Service Award was presented to Bridget Russell, CEO of Too Much Fun Club, Inc., an event planning company. Russell is currently serving as a NHSF board member, and has also been an active volunteer with the New Haven Boosters and other school organizations for 12 years. The Foundation has benefited greatly from her professional expertise as a member or leader of its fundraising event committees, helping NHSF to continue its great programs.

Five students were recognized for outstanding service to the community, having logged a combined total of 24,909 hours during their high school careers. Sean Trinh, Nicholas Bacogiannis, Rufus Wollo, Darien Poon, and Mursal Gardezi were given movie tickets and encouraged to take a night off from their good work.

The major sponsors for the event were Fremont Bank, Tri-CED Community Recycling, and Kaiser Permanente. Other business sponsors included Emerald Packaging, Sheet Metal Workers’ International Association, Dutra Enterprises, and IBEW Union Local 595. Additionally, Arthur and Cheryl Kuhlmann, Senator Ellen Corbett, Marsha Badella, and Mel Matsumoto made generous individual contributions to offset the costs of the event.

About the New Haven Schools Foundation

The New Haven Schools Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to providing financial support for the students and teachers of the New Haven Unified School District, and to assisting in the continuation of student activities and educational programs. The District serves students living in Union City and parts of South Hayward. The Foundation is committed to raising funds to provide and maintain consistently high quality educational experiences and school activity opportunities for children of our community. The Foundation also acts on the behalf of the community as an agent for scholarship funding for students of the New Haven Unified School District.