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Local High School Students Celebrated For Their Academic Excellence At The 4th Annual 4.0 & Above Program At The Big Fresno Fair *Prizes included a 2014 Toyota Corolla, \$39,000 in scholarships, iPads, bikes and more!*

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, November 10, 2014... The Big Fresno Fair and the Fresno County Office of Education, along with valued sponsors Friends of the Big Fresno Fair, EECU and Toyota celebrated high-achieving Fresno County high school students at The Big Fresno Fair’s 4.0 & Above Program held on October 1, 2014. A total of 24 students who had maintained a 4.0 and above GPA received prizes ranging from \$3,000 scholarships to iPads. This included grand prize winner, Michelle Reinaga of Washington Union High School who won a 2014 Toyota Corolla! After much anticipation, on Friday, November 7, Michelle claimed her prize and picked up her brand new car at Toyota of Selma.

“Toyota is honored to congratulate Fresno County’s academic all-stars, especially Michelle Reinaga, and support The Big Fresno Fair’s 4.0 & Above Program. Our community education partnerships help us empower students to learn, achieve and succeed and we’re proud to be part of unlocking that potential,” said Brendan Kane of Michael Toyota, representative of the Central Valley Toyota Dealers Advertising Association. This is the fourth year that Toyota has donated a car as the grand prize for the 4.0 & Above Program. Toyota’s partnership in this program is another way the company works to lead by example – being committed to the communities they serve and enhancing the quality of K-12 education through meaningful partnership in support of innovative programs.

In addition to Toyota’s support, a variety of businesses and community members have come forward to join the Fair in rewarding and recognizing these students for their academic success and hard work. This year, 5,000 Fresno County students, family, friends and school officials packed the Grandstand for the official drawing on Opening Day of the Fair. Edison High School had the highest number of winners with five students walking away with scholarships and iPads. Below is a complete list of winners for 2014:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Prize</u>	<u>High School</u>
Michelle Reinaga	2014 Toyota Corolla	Washington Union High School
Jacob Garnica	\$3,000 Bob & Brent Smittcamp Scholarship	Sanger High School
Michael Schiefer	\$3,000 Bob & Brent Smittcamp Scholarship	Central West High School
Savanna Conway	\$3,000 Bob & Brent Smittcamp Scholarship	Washington Union High School
Cali Peang	\$3,000 Butler Amusements Scholarship	Sanger High School
Cheyenne Salery	\$3,000 Credit Card Guys, Inc. Scholarship	Fresno High School
Travis Walker	\$3,000 Fresno Police Officers Association Scholarship	Fowler High School
Mayahuel Garcia	\$3,000 Humana Scholarship	Edison High School
Adam Clark	\$3,000 Mid-Valley Disposal Scholarship	University High School
Ivanna Avellaneda	\$3,000 Mr. & Mrs. Der Manoeul Jr. Scholarship	Parlier High School
Jacqueline Melchor	\$3,000 Vartan Family Scholarship	Edison High School
Herman Gill	\$3,000 Vartan Family Scholarship	Selma High School

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Name	Prize	High School
Emily Alkire	\$3,000 Gayle Shapazian Baddin Scholarship	Clovis High School
Yasmin Garza	\$3,000 Yrulegui Family Scholarship	Edison High School
Rodrigo Gutierrez	Apple iPad	Edison High School
Samantha Patrick	Apple iPad	Clovis High School
Angel Chamosa	Apple iPad	Edison High School
Elena Chittum	Mountain Bike	Clovis High School
Ethan Turner	Mountain Bike	Design Science High School
Andrew Nelson	Mountain Bike	Central High School
Alejandra Leija	Mountain Bike	Parlier High School
Mai Vue Lee	\$100 VISA Gift Card	McLane High School
Tenny Soh Feigal	\$100 VISA Gift Card	Sanger High School
Shaley Davis Jackson	\$100 VISA Gift Card	Kingsburg High School

“Each year we look forward to honoring these future leaders of our community and this year was exceptionally great!” exclaimed John C. Alkire, CEO of The Big Fresno Fair. “We were able to give away even more scholarships because of the great support of our community. We thank our sponsors and community supporters whole-heartedly and look forward to continuing this program in 2015, rewarding even more of these high-achieving Fresno County high school students and giving them something to look forward to each year.”

The 4.0 & Above Program invited all Fresno County high school students whose cumulative GPA is 4.0 or above as of June 2014 to The Big Fresno Fair for free on Opening Day, Wednesday, October 1, 2014. All qualified students in attendance had the opportunity to enter-to-win a 2014 Toyota Corolla, scholarships and other assorted prizes at a rally-like presentation in the Brian I. Tatarian Grandstand as a reward for their academic success. This program allows the Fair and its partners to recognize these students for all their hard work and incredible scholastic achievements. It also provides the opportunity for all Fresno County school district superintendents, their board presidents, plus each public, private and charter high school principal and their campus culture directors to encourage students to work hard all year round to keep up their grades for a lifetime of rewards.

For official rules and presentation details of this year’s Program, visit www.fresnofair.com/4-0-above-program.

About The Big Fresno Fair:

The Big Fresno Fair, founded in 1884, is the fifth largest fair in the State of California and represents the 21st District Agricultural Association. More than 600,000 people from throughout the State visit The Big Fresno Fair each year making it the largest annual event in the Central Valley. Members of the Board of Directors include: Leta Ciavaglia, President; Debbie Jacobsen, Vice President; Jerry Pacheco, Secretary/Treasurer; Elizabeth Hudson; Linda Mae Balakian Hunsucker; Larry Serpa; Fue “Ricky” Vang; Dora Westerland and William White. John C. Alkire heads the daily operations in his role as CEO. The 2015 Big Fresno Fair will run October 7 – 18. For more information about The Big Fresno Fair, please visit www.FresnoFair.com.

Attachments:

- Michelle Renaiga picking up her new Toyota Corolla on Friday, November 7, 2014.
- 4.0 & Above Logo



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