

For Immediate Release

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WALNUT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WINS \$2,000 DISCUS SCHOLARSHIP

Bonnie Lei was named the September 2010 Discus Scholarship winner by the Discus Awards, a national program that provides recognition and scholarship opportunities for multi-talented students who demonstrate excellence both inside and outside of school

<http://www.discusawards.com/>

Bethesda, MD (October 1, 2010) – Bonnie Lei, a senior at Walnut High School in California, today became this month’s recipient of the Discus Scholarship, a national college scholarship that provides \$2,000 to ten multi-talented high school students each year who demonstrate excellence both inside and outside of school.

An environmental activist and international ambassador for education, Bonnie exhibits a unique combination of excellence in science, art, and service that she draws on to pursue her passions.

Bonnie is the founder of a sister school connection between Walnut High School and a school with more than 800 disadvantaged students located in rural Sabhung, Nepal. “I oversee the design of interactive learning materials,” Bonnie explained, “that update the traditional rote teaching method, making learning more engaging.”

A Young Naturalist Award winner and an international Ocean Award finalist, Bonnie is “passionate about preserving the biodiversity of our planet.” She was one of two U.S. delegates at the World Youth Climate Congress in Mexico where she advocated for conservation and presented some of the results of work she has done in labs across the country.

Bonnie epitomizes the mission of the Discus Awards (www.DiscusAwards.com), the organization behind the Discus Scholarship. Launched in November 2009, the Discus Awards looks beyond test scores, grades, and athletics to recognize students whose multi-dimensional talents and passions span at least three of ten attributes, including community service, work, technology, athletics, academics, and the arts.

The \$2,000 Discus Scholarship is awarded to one Discus Award winner each month of the school year. In addition to becoming eligible for a Discus Scholarship, Discus Award winners are profiled on the Discus Awards site (www.discusawards.com/winners) and [Facebook page](#), providing them with a powerful new tool for showing colleges the full range of their diverse strengths and interests. Students can apply for a Discus Award throughout the year.

Since its soft launch in November 2009, the Discus Awards has attracted tens of thousands of nominees from every state in the U.S. plus D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. Winners are selected by a judging panel of teachers, counselors, and education professionals.

“With her energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to arts, academics and serving his community, Bonnie exemplifies everything the Discus Scholarship stands for,” said Devin Schain, CEO of the Discus Awards and Campus Direct. “At a time when it’s harder than ever to pay for college, we’re giving recognition and support to the kind of leaders who will thrive in a world that increasingly requires creative thinking, dedication, and a wide range of strengths.”

Students may nominate themselves for a Discus Award at www.DiscusAwards.com, or be nominated by parents, teachers, counselors, coaches, or friends. They are then asked to submit references and write short essays describing their accomplishments in three out of ten major categories, or attributes, of student life: Academics, Arts, Athletics, Community Service, Faith, Government, Green, Technology, Work, and Other Achievements.

To show that they are more than just words on a page, nominees also are encouraged to upload photos and videos that illustrate their achievements.

The Discus Awards was created by Campus Direct, a burgeoning boutique global education company, and Recognition Media, the owner and producer of major awards programs including The Webby Awards and The Telly Awards.

To nominate yourself or someone you know, please visit www.DiscusAwards.com.

About The Discus Awards

The Discus Awards (www.DiscusAwards.com) is the only awards and scholarship program honoring active and engaged high school students who excel in and out of school. Looking beyond grades, test scores, and win-loss records, the Discus Awards recognizes students for achievement in at least three areas, from community service and work to faith and the arts. Winners are selected by a panel of teachers, counselors, and education professionals, and each winner is eligible for a \$2,000 college scholarship awarded each month of the school year. The Discus Awards is presented by Campus Direct, a burgeoning boutique global education company, and Recognition Media, the owner and producer of major awards programs, including The Webby Awards and The Telly Awards.

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