

For Immediate Release

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ENCINAL HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR WINS \$2,000 DISCUS SCHOLARSHIP

Kaeleigh Thorp was named the March 2011 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 (April 1, 2011) – Kaeleigh Thorp, a senior at Encinal High School in Alameda, CA, was named the recipient of the March 2011 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.

Kaeleigh is a gifted young woman who has achieved tremendous success in her academic pursuits, her vast volunteer endeavors, and her broad range of extracurricular activities.

Already at the highest level of her high school's graduating class, Kaeleigh has expanded her education beyond the walls of Encina Preparatory and is on pace to graduate in June with Associate Degrees in Liberal Studies, Behavioral/Social Science, and Anthropology. She has received academic recognition before as a member of Mensa, the International High IQ Society, Intertel, the Top One Percent Society, and the National Society of High School Scholars.

What separates Kaeleigh from her intellectually-gifted peers is her ability to balance her academics with her significant contributions in community service and her other extracurricular activities. Kaeleigh is nearly halfway to reaching her goal of recording 4,000 service hours through the President's Volunteer Service Awards website. Some of the projects she has led and participated in include spearheading a holiday card campaign for 3,000 troops in an Army brigade serving in Iraq, serving as a Youth Attorney for at-risk, first-time juvenile offenders, gathering and donating items to Children's Hospitals, and sponsoring "adopted" Marines and soldiers and sending correspondence and care packages to them.

Even with her demanding academic schedule and volunteer hours, Kaeleigh finds time to participate in numerous extracurricular activities. The Varsity Field Captain for 2 years, Kaeleigh has been ranked in the top 3 in her league for shot put and discus since her freshmen year. She is also in the County's Youth Leadership Academy and was named Miss Teen Alameda County 2010.

Kaeleigh embodies 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 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 technology, community service and arts, Kaeleigh 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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