

For Immediate Release

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MIRA LOMA HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR WINS \$2,000 DISCUS SCHOLARSHIP

Nikita Desai was named the April 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 (May 3, 2011) – Nikita Desai, a senior at Mira Loma High School in Sacramento, CA, was named the recipient of the April 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.

Nikita is an inspirational role model who has overcome great obstacles to achieve tremendous success in her community service, her academics, and her diverse extracurricular activities.

After overcoming a severe case of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), Nikita decided to fight back. “I founded the support group OCD Kids Sacramento,” she writes, “as a source of guidance and hope for kids and teens with OCD. I was able to find an OCD expert to serve as a source of knowledge for our group, and over the past three years, we have guided dozens of sufferers on the road to recovery.” She shared her own struggles with the disease at the 2009 International OCD Foundation Conference in Minneapolis and the 2010 International OCD Foundation Conferences in Washington, D.C.

In addition to her triumph over OCD and her subsequent service for those still fighting the disorder, Nikita is a top notch student and stays active in a variety of ways. She will graduate this spring with an International Baccalaureate diploma after receiving the top score on the IB Economics SL Exam. Nikita was also one of just twelve students to be selected as a Clark Scholar, which allowed her to participate in a paid research internship at Texas Tech University in the field of her choice.

Nikita has held a number of leadership positions throughout her high school career, including President of the Science Olympiad Team and Senior Leader of the Arcade Creek Project Water Chemistry Division. Through the debate team, she is a National Forensic League Excellence Degree Recipient, Policy Debate Sacramento Valley League Champion, a University of the Pacific Invitational Policy Debate Semifinalist, and a Policy Debate State Octofinalist.

Nikita Desai 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, Nikita 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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