



AHS grad awarded new graduate scholarship for master's degree



Zenaida Gallardo, an Arvin High School graduate, received a monumental scholarship to further her college studies.

By Lindsay Hyman, Qorvis Communications

The Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans is pleased to announce that Zenaida Gallardo of Arvin, Calif. has been awarded the Washington Family Horatio Alger Scholarship of Excellence Grant to assist in funding for a post-graduate education. Zenaida is one of the first recipients of the newest scholarship program in the Association's esteemed set of

programs.

Zenaida was made eligible for this scholarship because she is a 2004 alumna of the Horatio Alger National Scholarship Program—an award given to high school seniors who have persevered in overcoming adversity while also demonstrating excellence in academics, character and contributions to their community. The Washington Family Horatio Alger Scholarship of Excellence Grant is awarded to those who are seeking graduate and doctoral degrees and is made possible by a \$10 million donation from Chairman Emeritus and Life Association Member, Dennis R. Washington, and his wife Phyllis.

"These scholars are dedicated to the constant pursuit of learning and giving," said Washington. "We are proud to support them as they continue to succeed in their educational, career and community endeavors."

Zenaida grew up in the small agricultural community of Arvin after her family migrated from Mexico when she was two. While her parents were very supportive they often had difficulties making ends meet as former

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laborers and Zenaida worked with them during the summers to help. With her family's encouragement, Zenaida was her class valedictorian and graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with honors in History in 2008. With the help of the Washington Family Horatio Alger Scholarship of Excellence Grant, she will study at University of California, Los Angeles for a master's degree in Education with aspirations of becoming a teacher.

Zenaida said, "Through teaching I will have the opportunity to continue supporting and encouraging students to receive a college education. I feel that my role as a teacher allows me to be an involved community member and an advocate for education."

"The Washington Family Horatio Alger Scholars have overcome great obstacles and continue to grow as model American citizens. We are delighted to support these individuals as they further their educational and career goals," said Terrence J. Gaus, Executive Director of the Horatio Alger Association. "The Association is especially thankful for the generous contributions of Dennis and Phyllis Washington and their dedication to the Horatio Alger mission."

Dennis R. Washington, founder of the Washington Group, also has a Horatio Alger story of inspiration and success. As a child suffering from polio and poverty, Dennis was motivated to overcome his adversity and found himself a vice president of the largest construction company in Missouri by age 26, and then proceeded to create his own construction company, which would grow to be one of the largest in the nation. In 1988, Dennis and his wife Phyllis founded the Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation. The Washington's have donated \$70 million to charitable causes through the Foundation and through their personal contributions.

Nine other individuals were awarded the scholarship as the first class of recipients: Andrew Angely of Fort Collins, Colo.; Shana Joy Bartlett of Coconut Creek, Fla.; Christin C. Crothers of Haverock, Mass.; Bevin A. Croft of Mount Vernon, Wash.; Tyler M. Dohlmán of Riceville, Iowa; Kandy N. Harey of Coconut Creek, Fla.; Ashley D. McKain of Foley, Ala.; Amy N. Robertson-Lester of Copeland, Kan. and Kristine Key Whipple of Bountiful, Utah.

Founded in 1947, the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans continues to

fulfill its mission of honoring the achievements of outstanding individuals in our society who have succeeded in spite of adversity and of encouraging young people to pursue their dreams through higher education. The Horatio Alger Association offers three annual scholarship programs: the National Scholarship Program and state scholarship programs, available to high school seniors in all 50 states, and the Horatio Alger Military Veterans Scholarship Program for U.S. veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts. The Association awards more than \$12 million annually in college scholarships and has given over \$63 million to deserving students since 1984. The Association is a 2008 Combined Federal Campaign participant, ID# 77062. For more information about the scholarships, please visit www.horatioalger.org.

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