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## **Porterville College PRESS RELEASE**

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### **SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM**

One of the most highly anticipated events at Porterville College each year is the scholarship awards program. This year marks the 39<sup>th</sup> time students were rewarded for their scholastic excellence with financial awards.

It all began in 1970 when PC professor, Burl Coffman, conceived the idea of rewarding exceptional students by giving them money with which to continue their education.

That first year, \$7,450 was given out, and from that beginning, the totals have grown dramatically, both in cash awarded and the number of students who receive awards. This year, in the PC gym, 67 students received \$96,175 contributed by just over 100 donors to the PC Foundation.

The top winner was **Jessica Petersen**, who walked off with \$10,250 from her five scholarships. There were a lot of big winners, including **Sarah Johnson** (\$6,600); **Pamela Meeks** (5,250) and **Michael Garcia** (\$5,100).

The winners of from \$4,000 to \$4,500 were: **Teresa Johnson, Catherine Lane, Neil Pedersen, Emerita Belloso, Jamie Scharf, and Kevin Tuttle.**

In the group that won from \$1,250 up to \$2,750 were: Kaitlin Deering, Brian Mitchell, Carly Ranson, Lance Trueblood, Julio Lagasca, Manuela Felix, Maria Kimlyn Billones, Karen Wallace, Vanessa Camarena, Jesse Carrillo, and Jennifer Nucum. Six students received \$1,000: Diana Delgado, Laurel Neville, Clara Santoro, Juan Zamora, Denise Valadez, and Ely-Mara Agpaoa. Others were presented with various amounts up to \$1,000.

**President, Dr. Rosa Carlson**, said, *"This is one my favorite events of the entire school year. It makes me so proud to know that we have so many brilliant students who are being honored, and it especially excites me to realize that we are blessed with all of those individuals and businesses who contribute to our Foundation for such a worthy project. Our entire community must feel good about what their local college is producing. I know that all of our award winners will represent this community in a positive manner wherever they continue their education."*