

EDUCATION & YOUTH

PREA Rewards PRHS Student's Hard Work

By Val Poalillo

Every May in the Gil Asa Gym there is an amazing evening for students and their parents. The annual Paso Robles High School Scholarship night hosted by the PRHS counselors and staff provides thousands of dollars of assistance to Paso Robles High School's brightest stars.

This year PREA, Paso Robles Education Alliance was very excited to be able to give six \$5,000 scholarships to deserving seniors of the class of 2011.

This year's recipients are:

- Morgan Farrior – Cal Poly
- Isaiah Jackson – UC Santa Barbara

• Kyleigh DePetro - UCLA
• Devon Lambert – UC Davis
• Sara Mason – Cal Poly
• Austin Ehrhardt – UC Berkeley

Isaiah Jackson wants the community and PREA to know that, "Next year, I will be attending UC Santa Barbara and I will be earning my degree in Economics. The most important experience I had in high school was going to my brother's Harvard graduation, where he received his MBA. It was really inspiring for me. When I heard my name announced (for the PREA scholarship) I was shocked, excited, and very, very grateful. I would

like to tell the PREA board and the community members that donate money to the scholarship how thankful and appreciative I am to win this scholarship. I am honored to have been selected from a group of outstanding seniors, and I am so grateful they are investing in my future. This is truly a blessing."

PREA is always looking for more community members to get involved.

For more information and to get involved with this awesome group please go to their website www.goprea.org or Paso Robles Education Alliance, P.O. Box 1290, Paso Robles, CA 93447



PREA Members: Shelley Gurney, Gwen Severson, Darla Stephenson, Jeff Railsback, Brian Thorndyke and Traci McMahan.

Students left to right: Morgan Farrior, Kyleigh DePetro, Devon Lambert, Isaiah Jackson, Austin Ehrhardt, and Sara Mason.

Paso Robles Magazine

August 2011

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PREA Halloween Bash III to fund college scholarships

By Melissa Chavez

Paso Robles Education Alliance (PREA) will host its annual autumn fund raising event to raise money for students, teachers and Paso Robles area schools. The "Halloween Bash III, Wine Be Damned" event is set to take place at Castoro Cellars on Saturday, October 29 from 6:30-10:30 pm.

"This is the third year that we are doing this costumed event, and every year it gets bigger and bigger with people looking forward to planning in advance to attend the event," says PREA Treasurer, Shelley Gurney.

Casino-style gaming, local beer and wines, music and dancing, and a silent auction will be made available throughout the venue. Halloween dress-up is encouraged, but the ap-

plication of horns and pointy tails aren't mandatory to take part in all of the fun.

"We look forward to the Culinary Academy providing all of the food," adds Gurney, "which we feel is a great tie-in to what we are doing in raising money to help support Paso schools. For 2011, we were able to give away \$30,000 in scholarships to six Paso Robles High School students, which was an awesome experience." This revenue was an increase from the first 2009 event, in which PREA reported raising \$10,000 in revenue to add to existing funds.

As severe budget cut measures continue to affect Paso Robles Joint Union School District throughout,

PREA's goal is to lighten the financial burden in the classroom in addition to providing scholarship monies. So-called non-essential curricula, such as art, music and athletic programs are often vulnerable for cutbacks.

Memberships are an important part of the PREA's effort and more participants are needed. One-time Pioneer Memberships are still being accepted in \$100, \$250 and \$500 levels, and PREA is continually seeking volunteers, sponsorship and silent auctions for their annual events. Tickets to the 2011 Halloween Bash are \$40 each. All proceeds will benefit PREA toward helping to subsidize the shortfall suffered by



teachers, students and local schools.

For all who give, bestowing scholarship money to Paso Robles' young adults also comes with it the added bonus of reaping personal rewards.

"Seeing the look on the kids' faces when their names were called makes what we are doing worthwhile," says Gurney. "I still tear up when I think about that night."

Paso Robles Education Alliance is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Adults, ages 21 and over only, may attend this event. Call (866) 620-0584 or e-mail info@GoPREA.org for tickets or to make donations. Visit GoPREA.org.

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September 2011