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MEDIA RELEASE

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12th ANNUAL DR. JIM STAUNTON **CHAMPIONS FOR CHARACTER AWARDS**

LOS ALAMITOS — On Monday, September 28, 2015 the California Interscholastic Federation-Southern Section (CIF-SS) is proud to hold their 12th Annual Dr. Jim Staunton Champions for Character Awards Dinner in The Grand in Long Beach.

Sixteen years ago the State CIF and all 10 sections partnered to promote the 16 principals of coaching, competing and teaching called “Pursuing Victory with Honor.” Since that time we have seen school boards, superintendents, principals, athletic directors and students embrace these principles in an effort to give our athletes tools for success on the playing field and in life.

As a way to recognize those athletes that can combine a fierce competitive nature with the Six Pillars of Character; trustworthiness, responsibility, respect, fairness, caring and citizenship; the CIF-SS Ethics in Sports Committee created these awards. Athletes, coaches, administrators, officials schools and media members who demonstrate these qualities are honored at the dinner and highlighted for their achievements. Additionally, all student winners receive scholarship money for their achievements.

“It is inspiring to read the incredible accomplishments of our honorees,” stated CIF-SS Commissioner of Athletics Rob Wigod. “We are proud and honored to highlight these outstanding individuals and institutions. They personify our commitment to Victory with Honor.”

Media members interested in covering the awards ceremony must RSVP by email to Thom Simmons (thoms@cifss.org) no later than Noon Wednesday, September 23.

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ABOUT THE CIF-SS

The CIF-SS is a non-profit corporation organized to direct and administer athletics in secondary schools within its membership and geographical boundaries. The Southern Section is one of 10 sections in the state of California. Not only is it the largest in the state (representing nearly one half of the state's high schools – 584 schools), but it is the 10th largest association of its type nationally. Each of the state sections operate independently, but all within the framework of the state federation.

2014-2015 Dr. Jim Staunton Champions for Character Awardees

Students

Marie Abe – North Torrance High School
Cristian Ayala – Pacifica/Oxnard High School
Emily Bacon – Newport Harbor High School
Tayler Bennett – St. Anthony High School
Madeleine Coppersmith – Mayfield Senior High School
Logan Dreese – Heritage High School
Tyler Garrard – Lakeside High School
Emma Hovanec – Westridge High School
Lucky Jordan – Barstow High School
Jack Koulos – Wilson/Long Beach High School
Elisa Pierre – Golden Valley High School
Emma Reed – Aliso Niguel High School
Seve Rodriguez – La Canada High School
Allison K Samp – Academy of Academic Excellence
Destiny Tellez – Azusa High School

Administrators

Kristen Braun – Athletic Dir., Jurupa Hills High School
Michael Gerakos – Activities Dir., University High School
Kitt Holk – Athletic Dir. Bonita High School
Kirk Kennedy – Principal, Fountain Valley High School
Matt Maeda – Athletic Dir. San Geronio High School
David Martinez – Assist. Principal, Estancia High School
Craig Miller – Athletic Dir., Hamilton High School
Ramiro Rubalcaba – Principal, Azusa High School

Schools

Elsinore High School
Hemet High School
Lakeside High School
Sherman Indian High School

Coaches

Kelle Bond – Volleyball, Capistrano Valley Christian HS
Aaron Flowers – Football, San Juan Hills High School
Andrew Gates – Swimming and Water Polo, Damien HS
Colin Gilliland – Soccer, Lakeside High School
Jack Hastert – Golf, St. John Bosco High School
Gary Jackson – Basketball, San Dimas High School
Scott Larsen – Soccer, Calvary Chapel/Santa Ana HS
Jon McFarland – Swimming, Pacifica/Oxnard High School
Ed Prange – Basketball, Loara High School
Adam Schulhofer – Baseball, Canyon/Canyon Country HS
Erik Starkey – Cross Country, Covina High School

Media

Cary Osborne – Assistant Managing Editor/ Sports Editor,
Santa Clarita Signal

Commissioner's Award

Kimberley Fricker – Principal, Canyon/Anaheim HS
John Hansen – Athletic Trainer, Los Alamitos High School
Holli Jackson – Athletic Trainer, Edison High School

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