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CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION - SOUTHERN SECTION

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MEDIA RELEASE

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13th ANNUAL DR. JIM STAUNTON CHAMPIONS FOR CHARACTER AWARDS

LOS ALAMITOS -- On Monday, September 26, 2016 the California Interscholastic Federation-Southern Section (CIF-SS) is proud to hold their 13th Annual Dr. Jim Staunton Champions for Character Awards Dinner at 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.

"We are excited to celebrate our Champions for Character Award winners this year," stated CIF-SS Commissioner of Athletics Rob Wigod. "We appreciate their hard work, dedication and commitment toward exemplifying the highest standards of ethics and sportsmanship among our 584 member high schools. They truly represent what it means to be a champion each day."

Media members interested in covering the awards ceremony must RSVP by email to Thom Simmons (thoms@cifss.org) no later than Noon Wednesday, September 21.

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.

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2015-2016 CIF Southern Section Champions for Character Award Recipients

Students

Aubrey Bennett – Beaumont HS
Natali Contreras – Covina HS
Melissa Gonzalez – Highland Hall HS
Garrett Michael Kettle – Alta Loma HS
Christa Kurkjian – Providence/Burbank HS
Remy Mathews – Aliso Niguel HS
Eva Mooradian – Mesrobian HS
Alexi Nazarian – La Canada HS
Irma Ramos – Gladstone HS
Anthony Reyes – Elsinore HS
Mark Rossi – Citrus Valley HS
Mikayla Rubin – Chino Hills HS
Emma Salazar – CSDR HS
McKenzie Wilson – St. Joseph/Lakewood HS
Kirsten Winiecki – San Dimas HS

Administrators

Lindsay Campana – Athletic Director,
Templeton HS
Mark Edgemon – Athletic Director,
Upland Christian Academy
Scott Gormley – Athletic Director,
Academy/Academic Excellence
Warren Reed – Athletic Director,
Ayala HS
Charles Shore – Athletic Director,
Gladstone HS
Melissa Vandenbosch – Athletic Director,
Huntington Beach HS

Schools

Academy of Academic Excellence HS
Azusa HS
Bethel Christian/ Riverside HS
Santa Rosa Academy HS
The Archer School for Girls HS

Coaches

Jeff Brinkley – Football – Newport Harbor HS
Lou Farrar – Football – Charter Oak HS
Kevin Kiernan – Girls Basketball – Mater Dei HS
Pete Kotheimer – Baseball – Templeton HS
Scott Saban – Girls Soccer – Desert Hot Springs HS
Gabriel Sanchez – Boys Golf – Bonita HS
Rich Smith – Boys Golf – Lakeside HS
John Stockham – Football/Wrestling – Banning HS
Jarvis Turner – Boys Basketball – Beverly Hills HS

Media

Nicholas Mattson – Sports Editor, Atascadero News

Official

Jeff Taylor – Basketball

Commissioner's Award

Seanna Garewal – Banning HS 11th
Chuck Lyons – Head Coach and
Girls Frosh/Soph Basketball Team – Rosemead HS

