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Workers' Memorial Scholarships awarded for 2010

Tragedy brightened by the pursuit of success

Each year in Oregon, dozens of children must cope with a parent dying in a workplace accident. The loss can have a profound effect on a family's ability to finance higher education.

An Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) program provides an opportunity to help surviving family members reach their educational goals. Oregon OSHA is honoring five Oregon students with Workers' Memorial Scholarship awards for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Oregon OSHA will honor the award recipients at a 10:30 a.m. ceremony on Thursday, Aug. 19, 2010, at the Labor and Industries Building in Salem. Members of the media are welcome to attend.

The recipients include:

Brittany Ford, Gresham

Ford attends Oregon State University and is studying to become a dietician. She became interested in the health field when she started reading food labels. Ford is also an avid runner.

A 2009 graduate of Gresham Barlow High School, Ford lost her father when a machine crushed him two weeks after her seventh birthday. This is Ford's second Workers' Memorial Scholarship. She is receiving a \$2,500 award.

Amanda Morris, Roseburg

Morris plans to attend Umpqua Community College this fall and would like to become a nurse.

Morris is a 2008 graduate of Roseburg High School. She has volunteered at a local women's shelter and helps with homeless coat drives each winter.

Morris lost her father in a workplace accident when she was two years old. This is her first Workers' Memorial Scholarship award. She is receiving a \$2,000 award.

Marissa Becker, Molalla

Becker is attending graduate school at the University of Montana. Working toward a master's degree in public health, her goal is to work for a nonprofit organization and help fight childhood obesity.

Becker is a 2003 graduate of Molalla High School and was just entering college when her father died from an overexposure to metal dust. This is Becker's second Workers' Memorial Scholarship award. She is receiving a \$2,000 award.

William McLaughlin, Yamhill

McLaughlin plans to attend Oregon State University this fall to study computer science. He grew up in Yamhill and was a 2010 graduate of Yamhill-Carlton High School.

McLaughlin's father, a construction foreman, was killed in a ladder accident when he was two years old. He is receiving a \$3,500 award.

(The fifth award recipient wishes to remain anonymous.)

Award recommendations are made by Oregon OSHA's Safe Employment Education and Training Advisory Committee, an advisory group with members from business, organized labor, and government. Oregon OSHA presents the awards annually to assist in the postsecondary education of spouses or children of permanently and totally disabled or fatally injured workers. The 1991 Legislature established the Workers' Memorial Scholarship at the request of the Oregon AFL-CIO, with support from Associated Oregon Industries.

The Workers' Memorial Scholarship is open to any high school graduate, graduating high school senior, GED recipient, or current college undergraduate or graduate student who is a dependent or spouse of an Oregon worker who has been fatally injured or permanently disabled while on the job.

Applicants must be Oregon residents receiving fatality benefits, a dependent or spouse of a fatally injured worker, or the dependent or spouse of an Oregon worker who has incurred a permanent total disability and whose claim for workers' compensation benefits has been accepted.

Interest earned on a DCBS fund derived from Oregon OSHA civil fines and penalties funds the awards.

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Oregon OSHA, a division of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, enforces the state's workplace safety and health rules and works to improve workplace safety and health for all Oregon workers. The Department of Consumer and Business Services is Oregon's largest business regulatory and consumer protection agency. For more information, visit www.orosha.org.