



Advancement Via Individual Determination

NEWS RELEASE

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AVID Center

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AVID Center Presents Founder's Award to Melissa Venegas
San Diego Graduate Receives \$50,000 Scholarship

SAN DIEGO—AVID Center presented its annual Founder's Scholarship to Melissa Venegas a four-year AVID student and recent graduate from Montgomery High School in the Sweetwater High School District. The award was given to her at AVID's Summer Institute with approximately 4,000 educators in the audience cheering her on.

Upon her retirement from AVID in 2006, the Founder's Scholarship was established in honor of Mary Catherine Swanson. The award is given each year to one San Diego County student who exemplifies individual determination. Originally \$25,000, the scholarship is now \$50,000.

Melissa had a GPA of 4.5 with 9 AP courses and was ranked sixth in her class of 335. She was the Associated Student Body commissioner of finance and vice president of her senior class. She was her AP Calculus Club president, Biology Club president, and AVID club president. She was also a Link Crew leader and active in CSF, Key Club, M.E.Ch.A., and the National Society of High School Scholars. She volunteers at an animal shelter and at Kaiser Permanente. Melissa wants to be a pediatrician and will study medicine at UCLA.

"This award to me is an opportunity to fulfill my educational goals that I could only dream about when I began high school," said Venegas. "I now feel hopeful to commence the next stage in my education that will lead me to my eventual goal of attending medical school."

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ABOUT AVID

AVID is a non-profit, proven college readiness system that closes the achievement gap. Today, AVID is implemented in approximately 4,900 schools in 45 states, the District of Columbia, and 16 countries/territories and impacts more than 700,000 students in grades K–12 and in 41 postsecondary institutions. The AVID College Readiness System transforms a school's academic culture to increase the number of students who enroll in four-year colleges and succeed in higher education and training.

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