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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Ag Health Benefits Alliance Awards \$50,000 in Academic and Vocational Scholarships**  
*Scholarships Support Agricultural Workers & Their Families*

Napa Valley, Aug. 15, 2023 —Ag Health Benefits Alliance (AHBA) is proud to announce this year’s grant recipients of its scholarship program, the AHBA Educational Foundation, LLC. The program offers scholarship grant opportunities for AHBA Member Employers’ eligible employee plan participants, their spouses, and children or grandchildren. Now in its fourth year, for the first time the program offered two distinct scholarship tracks: academic and vocational. This year’s award winners are:

<b>Academic</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Course of Study</b>
Arleth Bautista Bernal	Cal Poly	Plant Science
Maricela Estrada	Napa Valley College	Teaching
Alejandro Topete Esquivel	Santa Rosa Junior College	General Education
Cristian Flores	Sonoma State	Psychology
Diego Guerrero	Sacramento State	Mechanical Engineer
Lizbeth Hernandez	Clark University	Business
Uriel Hernandez	Chico State	Nutrition and Food
Monce Perez	Sacramento State	Architecture
Janette Ramirez	Sonoma State	Nursing
<b>Vocational</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Course of Study</b>
Cruz Evelia Esquivel	Amblard Leather Atelier	Leather Working
Guillermo Andrade Gonzalez	390 Barbering & Cosmetology	Barber
Allegra Macedo	Napa Valley Wine Academy	Wine & Spirit Education
Shannon Mattingly	UC Davis	Human Resources Management
Jennifer Mondragon	National Holistic Institute	Massage Therapist
Joshep Nevares	to be determined	Welding
Alejandro Amezcua Perez	to be determined	Residential Electrician

“We had many extraordinary applicants this year and are pleased to award over \$50,000 in scholarships,” says Foundation President, Rebecca Barlow. “Cruz, Janette, Maricela and Monce are prior award winners. It is especially exciting to follow their progress and see them achieve their goals.”

AHBA also offered a second application period in June to give vocational applicants another opportunity to apply outside of the traditional school year. Board member and program supporter, Michael Wolf, says “These scholarships make it possible for our members’ employees and families to enhance job-skills or pursue training that may have been out of reach. Our aim is that these scholarships will be a win/win, for both the employers and employees.”

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**About Ag Health Benefits Alliance:** Ag Health Benefits Alliance (AHBA) has been providing affordable health insurance and other benefits to agricultural employees in Northern California since its founding as the California Winegrower Foundation in 1972. Started by a group of forward-thinking winegrape growers who shared a common goal of improving working conditions, AHBA is a non-profit member organization that supports both employers and employees. AHBA's members were dedicated to providing health benefits for employees, including seasonal workers, long before required by law. Today, AHBA provides those benefits to more than 1,500 agricultural employees.

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Note to Editors: For Word and PDF versions of this document, awardee photos and logo please go to <https://app.box.com/s/gtbgzikzrjrx19p5jo3dhjtpcsl1sqbs>