

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Clark Center for the Performing Arts  
Congratulates  
Our 2020 Clark Center Scholarship Award Winners

**August 2020 – Arroyo Grande, CA.** – The Clark Center for the Performing Arts awarded six seniors residing in the Lucia Mar Unified School District area with performing arts scholarships to assist in pursuing higher education in the arts. The scholarships were funded through an endowment conceived to recognize young performers, which was made possible through the generous bequests of the Melick and Arlene Mendel estate, the Ron & Bernie Kautz Memorial Scholarship Fund, Carol & Bill Rust, the Deborah Kastner Memorial Scholarship as well as the Clark Center Scholarship Fund. New donors to the fund this year were the Nichols Foundation and Juanita McMullen.

Clark Center Scholarship Committee members, Kim and Kenyon Banks, Corki Clark-Henderson, Rena Dambly, Joan Henry, Charles Jordan, Dave Kastner, Robyn Metchik, Juanita McMullen, Mary Rowan-Ishikawa, Juanita McMullen, Carol Rust, and Gary Thompson awarded the six student finalists \$13,000 in scholarships for further studies in the arts.

Arroyo Grande High School senior, **Ava Barhill** (attending University of Arizona) received a \$2,500 scholarship from the Ron & Bernie Kautz Memorial Scholarship and Clark Center Scholarship Fund. Also from Arroyo Grande High School, **Emmanuel Fuerte** (accepted to PCPA) received \$2,500 from the Deborah Kastner Memorial Scholarship and Clark Center Scholarship Fund. Nipomo High school senior, **Sarah Wasil**, received \$1,500 from the Melick and Arlene Mendel Scholarship fund. Sarah plans to attend Hancock in the fall. Also a Nipomo High School senior, **Renee Regnier** was awarded a Melick and Arlene Mendel Scholarship in the amount of \$1,500 and plans to attend Actor's Edge. Arroyo Grande senior, **Erik Thiesmeyer** (attending Boston University) was awarded \$2,500 from the Bill and Carol Rust Scholarship. **Alexandra Lund**, who attended Arroyo Grande High School was awarded \$2,500 from the Melick and Arlene Scholarship Fund and Clark Center Scholarship Fund. Alexandra will be attending Syracuse University.

This is the 17th year the Clark Center has held its performing arts scholarship competition. Through increased endowments and gifts, the program is able to make substantial contributions to the education of talented Lucia Mar Unified School District graduating seniors. For more information on the Scholarship Endowment Fund, contact our Business Office (805) 489-4196.