

Kiwanis Awards Judge William D. Mudd Scholarships to Reality Changers Students

On May 26, 2010, the Kiwanis Club and Foundation of Tierrasanta awarded a full scholarship to Serra High School student Yaritza Hernandez to attend the UCSD Academic Connections Summer Program. Kiwanis presented the scholarship through Reality Changers of San Diego. Two additional scholarships were also awarded through the Kiwanis grant totaling \$7000, including a \$1500 grant from the Kiwanis Cal-Nev-HA District Foundation, \$1000 from the Kiwanis Club of La Jolla and matching funds from Reality Changers because of the total funds donated. Reality Changers is a program to assist young people faced with challenging personal and family circumstances.



Tierrasanta Kiwanis President Dick Wilken, Yaritza Hernandez, Stephanie Sites (Reality Changers participant), Pat Mudd, Kiwanis Foundation President Mike Pent and La Jolla Kiwanis President Wil Johnson

The scholarships honor former Tierrasanta resident and Kiwanian Judge William D. Mudd who died last year after a struggle with cancer. Judge Mudd's wife, Pat, presented one of the scholarships to Yaritza Hernandez. She is in the 11th Grade at Serra High School and being raised by a single mom. Her service profile and goals are:

- A U.S. Congressional Page in Washington DC for a quarter during her junior year
- Academic Connections Scholar, 2009
- Princeton Review Junior Scholar, 2009
- Forest Home Scholar, 2008, 2009
- Volunteers at Breast Cancer Awareness walks
- Has pledged to raise \$2300 towards the cure for breast cancer as part of the Angel Walkers team for the Breast Cancer 3-day in November 2010. She embarked on this challenge because her fellow Reality Changers peer, Robert Silva, has a mother fighting breast cancer. Her fundraising page is <http://bit.ly/Yaritza>
- Dream job: She'd like to become a lawyer, a City Councilmember, a Congresswoman, and then a Senator.

Also recognized at the presentation was Stephanie Sites, a Reality Changers participant who will be seeking to attend the summer program in the future. Stephanie is in the 11th grade at Serra High. In May 2009, Stephanie's older brother was shot and killed just a few blocks from their home in City Heights. She has also posted an impressive academic and service record including:

- Joined Reality Changers in June 2009
- Princeton Review Junior Scholar, 2009
- Forest Home Scholar, 2009

- Works tirelessly to create a better community in City Heights through her participation in the Mid-City CAN Youth Council
- Volunteers her time at Reality Changers as a student intern
- Dream Job: Accountant at a major corporation