

2015 SEATTLE HIROSHIMA CLUB SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Jenna Michelle Louie

Daughter of Stan Louie and Julie Okada
Granddaughter of Makoto and JoAnn Okada
Great-granddaughter of Karoku Okada
Student at Charles Lindbergh High School, Renton, WA

Jenna loves gymnastics!! She has been involved in the sport since the first grade through Metropolitan Gymnastics, and since entering high school has won numerous awards and recognition for her outstanding performances, including SeaMount All-League First Team for Gymnastics, and First Team All-Academic League Awards. In addition to earning a varsity letter all four years, Jenna was selected as the Gymnastics Rookie of the Year in grade 9, and in grades 10 and 11 she was voted as the Gymnastics Most Valuable Player. In grade 10, she earned the Most Inspirational Gymnast recognition, and in grades 11 and 12 she served as the team captain.

Academically, Jenna has challenged herself to a rigorous course of studies including two to three honors and AP courses each term, and has maintained a 3.949 cumulative grade point average. Her strong classroom performance also earned her the honor of being selected as the school's AAUW Outstanding Female Student in Math in grade 11, an invitation into the school's National Honor Society, as well as an AP Scholar designation.

This year Jenna was voted by her classmates as the ASB Sr. Class Treasurer, and is serving as a student mentor. She also has been a member of the Key Club for the past four years. Jenna has played the violin and has been a member of the schools' orchestras since the fifth grade.

In the summer of 2014 Jenna spent two weeks in Japan as one of thirty-two students selected for the JET-Memorial program. In addition to future studies in civil engineering in college, Jenna is considering a minor in Japanese as well.

Eric Masaru Smith

Son of Sharon Nayematsu Hancock and Fred Smith
Grandson of Ethel Taniguchi Nayematsu
Great-grandson of Masaru Taniguchi and Shizuka Taniguchi LaGrange
Student at Newport High School, Bellevue, WA

An overused term “well-rounded” seems to describe Eric. There are so many facets to Eric’s interests and talents: academically strong, athletically talented, and possessing a gift of caring and relating to others.

Throughout his high school career Eric has taken an academic load of seven classes each term, and has earned a 3.976 cumulative grade point average, while taking honors and AP courses. Academically, he has earned the AP Scholar Award, as well as being selected for the school’s National Honor Society. Last year, through the DECA Program, Erik competed at the State and National levels. For the past three years, he has earned a varsity letter in football, and was selected as captain of this year’s football team. Out of school, Eric has competed as a sprinter at the Speed of Sound Track and Field Club.

Outside of sports, another important area of interest that Eric has pursued revolves around his desire to help others. During the school day Eric has served as a Social Coach in a special program available to Bellevue School District students who are considered to be on the autism spectrum. Due, in part, to his compassion and mature understanding of human behavior the teacher shares, “Eric is by far the most effective Social Coach we have in the Program.”

Another commitment reflecting Eric’s interest in helping others, is the Expect Excellence Initiative, which Eric helped found last year, and who is currently serving as the co-president. The program is designed, developed, and implemented by high school students who volunteer their time to mentor and tutor at-risk elementary students in the Bellevue School District. The program has been such a success, that the volunteer students have been asked to expand the initiative to include at-risk middle school students.

At this time Eric’s possible college major includes Biology/PreMed.