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## **Workers' Memorial Scholarships awarded for 2008**

*Tragedy brightened by the pursuit of success*

Advances in workplace safety and health in Oregon have reduced workplace deaths by 75 percent in the past 35 years. Still, dozens of children each year in Oregon must cope with a parent being taken from their lives through a workplace death. The loss can have a profound effect on a family's ability to finance higher education.

An Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) program provides an opportunity to help surviving family members reach their educational goals. Oregon's Occupational Safety and Health Division (Oregon OSHA) is honoring two Oregon students with Workers' Memorial Scholarship awards for the 2008-2009 academic year.

The award recipients are:

### **Annette Smith**, Eugene

Smith is a second-year law student at the University of Oregon, where she also earned her undergraduate degree. In 2007, she volunteered at the New Orleans Legal Assistance Corporation following Hurricane Katrina, and she is an Oregon Child Advocacy Project fellow. She plans to become a family law and child advocacy attorney.

Smith is a 2003 graduate of North Eugene High School and became the first person in her immediate family to attend college. Smith's father died in a logging accident in 1985 when she was three months old. She is a four-time recipient of a Workers' Memorial Scholarship. Smith is receiving a \$5,000 award.

### **Hannah Haley**, Estacada

Haley plans to study filmmaking and German at San Francisco State University this fall. She would like to create documentaries focused on social issues and also has aspirations to work in the German film industry.

Haley is a 2008 graduate of Estacada High School. She lost her father in 2004, after he was killed in a trucking accident while hauling a piece of heavy equipment. This is Haley's first Workers' Memorial Scholarship award. She is receiving a \$3,000 award.

Award recommendations are made by Oregon OSHA's Safe Employment Education and Training Advisory Committee, an advisory group with members from business, organized labor, and government. Oregon OSHA presents the awards annually to assist in the post-secondary

education of spouses or children of permanently disabled or fatally injured workers. The 1991 Legislature established the Workers' Memorial Scholarship at the request of the Oregon AFL-CIO, with support from Associated Oregon Industries.

The Workers' Memorial Scholarship is open to any high school graduate, graduating high school senior, GED recipient, or current college undergraduate or graduate student who is a dependent or spouse of an Oregon worker who has been fatally injured or permanently disabled while on the job.

Applicants must be Oregon residents receiving fatality benefits, a dependent or spouse of a fatally injured worker, or the dependent or spouse of an Oregon worker who has incurred a permanent total disability and whose claim for workers' compensation benefits has been accepted.

Interest earned on a DCBS fund derived from Oregon OSHA civil fines and penalties funds the awards.

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Oregon OSHA, a division of the Department of Consumer & Business Services, enforces the state's workplace safety and health rules and works to improve workplace safety and health for all Oregon workers. The Department of Consumer and Business Services is Oregon's largest business regulatory and consumer protection agency. For more information, visit [www.orosha.org](http://www.orosha.org).