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News Release

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California Grape Scholarship Applications Announced

FRESNO, California – California's fresh grape growers are offering applications for the 2009 California Table Grape Workers Scholarship program. Three \$16,000 scholarships to any four-year California college or university are available to California's table grape field workers and their immediate families.

The application deadline is Friday, March 20, 2009. Applicants must be 2009 graduating high school seniors or high school graduates who want to continue their education. Only field workers employed in the current or previous year's California table grape harvest or their children are eligible for these scholarships.

"Since 1985, California's fresh grape community has been sponsoring a scholarship program for its workers," said Kathleen Nave, president of the California Table Grape Commission. "The program has helped more than 85 students continue their educations at some of the top colleges in California."

According to Nave, California's fresh grape farmers have long recognized the importance of supporting the communities where they live and work. "Throughout the state, members of the fresh California grape community volunteer their time and service for associations, boards and charitable organizations," said Nave. "In addition, collectively they have continued supporting workers and rural communities with the nation's first worker-focused scholarship program. Since its inception 25 years ago, the program has awarded nearly \$1 million in total to some of the brightest students in California."

The California Table Grape Workers Scholarship program is open to table grape field workers and their immediate family members only. Workers and their immediate family members of wine, raisin, or other commodity crops will not qualify.

Applications are available through employers. In addition, information is available to qualified students through high school counselors, and applications can be found and ready for download on the commission's website at grapesfromcalifornia.com.

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