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# **DE ANZA HS SENIOR NAMED GATES MILLENIUM SCHOLAR**

RICHMOND—A De Anza High School senior who spent her summer researching the dispersion of chemicals through moving bodies of water has been named one a Gates Millennium Scholar, it was announced this week.

Cali Nguyen, 18, has been accepted to Stanford University and is one of 1,000 seniors from across the country to win the scholarship. The scholarship will cover Nguyen's unmet financial need and, through the program, provide services to encourage academic excellence; mentoring services for academic and personal development; and an online resource center that provides internship, fellowship and scholarship information.

"We are proud of Cali and the way that she has distinguished herself academically," Dr. Bruce Harter, Superintendent of the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD), said. "The Gates Millennium Scholar Program award is a testament to her hard work and genuine passion for learning."

Nguyen, a San Pablo resident, said that she would like to study chemical engineering in college before settling into a medical research career. Last summer, she participated in two programs—at UC Berkeley and Cornell University—where she conducted environmental engineering research that studied the effects of chemicals in creeks and rivers. The hands on experiments were exciting and helped her "understand how quickly (chemicals move through water) and how quickly you need to respond to a spill," she said.

"Getting an education is something that I have always wanted to do for myself," Nguyen said. "I enjoy building and testing things and I enjoy learning."

At De Anza, Nguyen is a peer drug educator, a member of MESA, and plays on the varsity badminton team.

This is the second consecutive year that a WCCUSD student has won a Gates Millennium Scholar Program award. Last year, John F. Kennedy High School senior Kelsie Sontay Perez won the scholarship and in 2011, Jennifer Ezeokoli and Benjamin Ezeokoli from Middle College High School received the award.