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Deer Valley Education Foundation (DVEF) Announces the 2017- 2018 Virginia and David McElyea Scholarship for Educational Excellence Recipient

The 2017-2018 Virginia and David McElyea Scholarship for Educational Excellence scholarship recipient is Benjamin Karls, a student from Barry Goldwater High School who will be attending the University of Arizona this fall. In his essay he states: "As long as advancements in science and math have started, the key to innovation has been creative thinking. If the early mathematicians and scientists had not thought outside their known nature, new concepts and advancements could never have been made."

With his degree in environmental sciences with an emphasis in chemistry and physics, he hopes "to help the world not only become more eco-friendly in the way of chemicals and resources that we use but also create regulations to prevent further damage to people and the environment."

The Virginia and David McElyea Scholarship for Educational Excellence is a \$2,000 one-time scholarship offered exclusively to DVUSD high school seniors who will be attending a four-year college/university and pursuing a degree in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math.

Applications are considered based on the following criteria:

- A Deer Valley student who is enrolled to attend an accredited 4-year college/university in the fall and pursuing a degree in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math.
- Demonstrated academic excellence
- Extra-curricular high school and community activities
- Personal essay
- Two letters of recommendation

In 2011, Dr. Virginia McElyea, long-time education leader and the Deer Valley Unified School District Superintendent at that time, created **The Virginia and David McElyea Scholarship for Educational Excellence** as a tribute to her late husband David. Since its inception, this scholarship has provided over \$15,000 in scholarships to assist Deer Valley students in fulfilling their dreams of pursuing a career in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math.

Sadly, Dr. McElyea passed away in 2017. Per her family's request and in honor of Dr. McElyea's lifelong passion for education, her family decided to continue her legacy. In lieu of flowers, they requested for contributions to her scholarship fund. Thanks to not only her family's understanding of how important this scholarship was to Virginia, but also her friends and peers, the Deer Valley Education Foundation is able to continue offering this scholarship.

If you are interested in contributing to the Virginia and David McElyea Scholarship for Educational Excellence Fund, please contact Marie Brennan at 623.445.5012 or e-mail me at marie.brennan@dvusd.org.

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