



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## YMCA Honors Outstanding High School Students

On November 19, 2015, at the Bigham Knoll Ballroom in Jacksonville, the Rogue Valley Family YMCA honored local character-filled teenagers. Held each year before Thanksgiving, the YMCA pauses to give appreciation to a select few high school students that go above and beyond in their service to the community in addition to thanking donors who make the work of the YMCA possible.

Eleven individuals received special recognition this year known as the Character Awards. This award recognizes teens that live the values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility demonstrated through volunteer and community service.

- **Nicoletta Dinelli**, Phoenix High School
- **Andrew Allen**, South Medford High School
- **Crystal Tarbell**, Central Medford High School
- **Matthew Mendenhall**, North Medford High School
- **Talisha Bullock**, Eagle Point High School
- **Skylar Hall**, Crater Academy of Health and Public Services
- **Chanara Malone**, Logos Public Charter School
- **Helen Thieme**, St. Mary's School
- **Emilie Copley**, Cascade Christian High School
- **Katie Niedermeyer**, Crater School of Business, Innovation and Science
- **Nichole Taylor**, Crater Renaissance Academy

Four other teenagers received recognition because they were the 2015 Pear Blossom Run scholarship winners receiving money for college tuition. **Devin Rodman** from Crater High School, **Timothy McPherson** from Cascade Christian High School, **Nevina DeLuca** from Phoenix High School and **Lela Stemple** from South Medford High School were selected for their running ability and academic standing.

"A heartfelt thanks goes to these individuals for their personal dedication to our community," says Brad Russell, YMCA Executive Director. He adds, "The YMCA encourages teens and adults this coming holiday season to pause and appreciate others plus volunteer with their charity of choice."

