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**Monmouth resident receives Workers Memorial Scholarship**

(Salem) The Department of Consumer and Business Services, Occupational Safety and Health Division (Oregon OSHA) has awarded the 2004 Workers Memorial Scholarship to Natasha Whitaker of Monmouth.

“We’re honored to present the award to Natasha,” said Peter De Luca, administrator of Oregon OSHA. “The Workers Memorial Scholarship award is designed to help people whose lives have been affected by serious or fatal workplace injuries. It is very apparent that Natasha, her father and mother have overcome significant adversity to create a better life for the entire family.”

Award recommendations are made by Oregon OSHA’s Safe Employment Education and Training Advisory Committee, an advisory group comprised of stakeholders from business, organized labor and government.

Whitaker’s father became permanently paralyzed during a logging accident in 1974. Natasha was born in 1984, and through hard work went on to become the valedictorian for Central High School in Independence in 2002. Natasha also received the Workers’ Memorial Scholarship award in 2002 and 2003. She currently attends Oregon State University with a dual major in Forestry Management and Economics.

Oregon OSHA presents annual scholarships to assist in the post-secondary education of spouses or children of permanently disabled or fatally injured workers. The Workers’ Memorial Scholarship was established by the 1991 Legislature 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, 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. A workers’ compensation claim for benefits must also have been accepted to qualify. Scholarship funds are available for use at colleges within the United States.

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