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PRESS RELEASE

Wheelhouse Credit Union Announces 2023 *Badge of Honor* Scholarship Recipients

***** Scholarships Support Children of San Diego County First Responders *****

San Diego, CA – July 19, 2023 –Wheelhouse Credit Union (Wheelhouse) has awarded three \$1,000 “*Badge of Honor*” Scholarships to college-bound students, honoring the heroic efforts of San Diego County’s first responders and their families.

In the fourth year of the *Badge of Honor* program, scholarships were awarded to rising college freshmen with a parent/grandparent/legal guardian who is an active member of law enforcement, fire protection service, healthcare or EMT in San Diego County.

The Wheelhouse 2023 *Badge of Honor* Scholarship recipients are:

Recipient	School	City	College Attending	Family First Responder
Ella Alexander	San Dieguito Academy	Encinitas	Colorado State University	Scripps Cardiac Sonographer & U.S. Military
Leilani Kwak	Mountain Valley Academy	Ramona	Biola University	Cal Fire Captain
Daniel Rodriguez	High Tech High School	Chula Vista	Pepperdine University	Special Investigations Unit (CIU)

“Our *Badge of Honor* scholarships honor the first responders who are true heroes, working to protect all of us across San Diego. We want to thank our first responders and recognize the sacrifices they and their families are making as they do so much to help our communities and keep us safe,” said Wheelhouse President/CEO Lisa Paul-Hill. “We congratulate these impressive scholarship recipients for their hard work in high school, and wish them great success in their exciting college career ahead.”



Wheelhouse President/CEO Lisa Paul-Hill (left) presents a scholarship to 2023 Badge of Honor Scholar Ella Alexander, a 2023 graduate of San Dieguito Academy in Encinitas, who will attend Colorado State University in the fall.

Beyond having a parent, grandparent or legal guardian as a first responder, all recipients recently graduated from San Diego County high schools with plans to attend an accredited college. Award criteria included academic achievement, letters of recommendation, an essay about the first responder in their family, and a desire to make an impact on their schools and communities.

The *Badge of Honor* scholarships are in addition to the Credit Union's annual Sustainability College Scholarship Program, which was created in 2005 to support high school seniors in San Diego County. Since the creation of these programs, Wheelhouse has awarded \$116,000 in scholarships to local students.

About Wheelhouse Credit Union

Wheelhouse Credit Union (formerly San Diego Metropolitan Credit Union) is a federally insured, state chartered credit union founded in 1934 serving more than 32,000 community members in the greater San Diego area. Wheelhouse is "San Diego Made and Proud," providing a full suite of consumer banking services and a comprehensive set of Energy-Efficient and Solar Loan products for the conscientious San Diegan. The Credit Union is committed to helping its Members succeed while supporting initiatives that help San Diego thrive. Please visit [wheelhousecu.com](https://www.wheelhousecu.com) for more information, or follow the Credit Union on Instagram®, Facebook® and Twitter®.

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