San Pasqual High Junior Named Most Remarkable Teen

Escondido, CA – San Pasqual High’s Naeem Miller was recently recognized by the San Diego County Public Defender’s Office as one of the 25 Most Remarkable Teens in San Diego County during its fifth annual awards ceremony. Naeem received the award for Environmental Activist.

A junior who has been at the school since his freshman year, Naeem has volunteered with CleanEarth4Kids for the past two years. He has also worked and spoken at events to lobby for the passage of AB2771, the California PFAS-Free Cosmetic Act. PFAS are human-made chemicals used in many consumer products and the legislation would ban them from personal care and beauty products. Naeem has also lobbied for AB1817, the California Safer Clothes and Textiles Act, which would stop the use of all PFAS from clothing and textiles made and sold in California.

Additionally, Naeem has worked on legislation requiring a 3,200-foot buffer zone to protect homes, hospitals, schools, parks, and other sensitive areas from oil and gas drilling; a law requiring schools to install water refill stations in new construction and remodels; and a law requiring environmental justice and tribal representation on California Water Boards.

“It’s so inspiring to see Naeem take up this cause with so much passion,” said Principal Cory Gregory. “I have no doubt that Naeem’s advocacy efforts will continue. We are proud to have him as part of our Eagle family.”

As a San Pasqual High student, Naeem played the clarinet in the school marching band as a freshman and is a leader for the Black Student Union. He developed an interest in the environment at an early age and originally learned of CleanEarth4Kids through his dad.

“Getting involved in the way that I have has really made me feel that helping the environment is something that I can do,” said Naeem. “It has more impact than just holding a poster or protesting.”

As far as being recognized, to Naeem, it means that the word is spreading and his hard work with CleanEarth4Kids is paying off.
“For me, this recognition is a symbol of my efforts and CleanEarth4Kids efforts to spread the word about stopping pesticides and other environmental causes such as saving animals, plants and the general environment,” said Naeem.

Looking to the future, he wants to be an electrical engineer and plans on attending Palomar College. He hopes to use electrical engineering to improve environmental quality by working on environmentally friendly cars, for example.

The 25 teens were selected from a pool of more than 155 nominees after virtual interviews and a review of supplemental materials by a panel from the Public Defender’s Office. The 25 Most Remarkable Teens in San Diego County are set apart from other teen award honorees because students selected to be “Most Remarkable” are not only talented, but are driven to succeed, overcome adversity and are passionate about civic issues or projects.

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### About Escondido Union High School District
The Escondido Union High School District has empowered students to graduate prepared for college, career, and life through excellence in learning for more than 125 years. The district serves nearly 7,000 students across five high schools including: Escondido, Orange Glen, and San Pasqual, Del Lago Academy and Valley; as well as the Escondido Adult School. More than 900 staff members are employed by Escondido Union High School District, which offers more than 180 courses, including nationally recognized Advanced Placement courses, College & Career Technical Education, Independent Study, after school enrichment, career exploration, STEM opportunities, and more.