

Rich nabs share of JCF \$21,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors

Josephine County Foundation (JCF) is pleased to award scholarships totaling \$21,000 to six graduating seniors. Since 2011, JCF has awarded \$268,000 in scholarships to 46 students helping them reach their higher education goals and to fulfill their career aspirations.

This year's scholarships are made possible by \$19,000 from JCF for JCF students and Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) students at Hidden Valley High School; and \$2,000 from the Artoff Family Scholarship Fund at JCF for Rogue River High School students.

"This scholarship will have a significant impact on my attending college and becoming the first in my family to graduate from college, fulfilling my father's dream", said Jose Lopez, a Hidden Valley High School graduate.

This year's scholarship recipients are:

\$ 7,000 Keely Marchand – Hidden Valley High School – JCF President. Ms. Marchand plans to pursue a career in nursing and will attend Rogue Community College and Southern Oregon University.

\$4,000 Kathryn Rich – Illinois Valley High School – JCF Executive Vice President. Ms. Rich will attend Oregon Institute of Technology with a goal to become a dental hygienist.

\$ 4,000 Jose Lopez - Hidden Valley High School – FBLA Chapter President. Mr. Lopez plans to major in political science at Southern Oregon University and intends to become a lawyer.



Kathryn Rich

\$ 4,000 Jasmine Williams – Hidden Valley High School – a four-year JCF student member. Plans to attend Rogue Community College and pursue a career as a physical therapist.

\$ 1,000 Amanda Earnest – Rogue River High School – Ms. Earnest is an Artoff Scholarship recipient and will attend Oregon State University and plans on becoming a pharmacist.

\$ 1,000 Cora Clifford – Rogue River High School – Ms. Clifford is an Artoff Scholarship recipient intending to pursue business social engineering at Willamette University.

JCF is a student-led 501c3 non-profit formed in 2011 that inspires, engages, and strengthens the community through innovative leadership and service. High school students use their energy and creativity to improve the social and economic well being of the community so every individual has the opportunity to be healthy, educated and prosperous.

Clean Water Act under 'assault,' says DEQ

CJ Schatza
IVN copy editor

On Monday, June 22, a new Federal rule took effect that the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) claims has "serious and potentially damaging implications for ensuring clean, safe and healthy water in Oregon and elsewhere."

In a statement to the press, the DEQ added, "The rule imposes a new definition of Waters of the United States, or WOTUS, under the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) that reduces the extent of water bodies protected by Federal regulations."

"This is a direct assault on the Federal Clean Water Act, one of the most successful environmental laws ever passed by Congress. As such it is also an assault on the public health of Oregonians and people across the U.S. who depend on their states to enforce clean water regulations."

The Navigable Waters Protection Rule, devised by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of the Army, was first published April 21 of this year. According to the EPA's website, "For the first time, the agencies are streamlining the definition so that it includes four simple categories of jurisdictional waters, provides clear exclusions for many water features that traditionally have not been regulated, and

defines terms in the regulatory text that have never been defined before.

"Congress, in the Clean Water Act, explicitly directed the agencies to protect 'navigable waters,'" the EPA website continued. "The Navigable Waters Protection Rule regulates traditional navigable waters and the core tributary systems that provide perennial or intermittent flow into them."

Reactions to the Trump administration's new water rule have fallen largely along party lines. Politico reports that a coalition of Democratic attorneys general attempted to halt the rule's implementation just days before it was set to take effect. They claimed that the rule is "arbitrary and capricious" for dramatically shrinking the scope of the Clean Water Act without sufficient scientific and technical support.

A San Francisco Federal judge denied the bid to halt the rule, citing that the attorneys general had too slight a chance of winning a legal challenge to justify an injunction. This judge wrote, "In the absence of precedent construing what must be included as 'waters of the United States,' plaintiffs are left with little more than policy arguments that the narrowness of the 2020 rule serves poorly to carry out the objectives of the CWA... As compelling as those arguments may be, they do not provide a sufficient basis for a court to substitute its judgment for the policy choices of the agency."

Other Democrat-led states,

including Oregon, and environmental groups have active court challenges and have sought preliminary injunctions against the Navigable Waters Protection Rule.

"For five decades, states have been working within the Clean Water Act to reduce the amount of pollution flowing into our waters," the DEQ stated in their press release. "Rolling back this legislation under the guise of 'efficiency' will endanger our drinking water, fish habitat, recreation areas and more."

"DEQ has joined other states in taking all available steps to prevent this new rule from taking effect and eroding the health of our people and our environment."

Despite the Federal rule change, the DEQ noted that state laws remain unchanged, allowing Oregon to "maintain broad authority to protect" natural resources.

However, the DEQ explained, "The new WOTUS definition would impact DEQ's 401 Water Quality Certification process, which is linked to the issuance of Federal permits for projects impacting wetlands and waterways. The 401 certification provides DEQ the opportunity to ensure that a project will comply with all relevant state water quality standards and other relevant state laws. Without a Federal permit, DEQ must look to existing state law and rules to ensure protection of state water quality for these projects."

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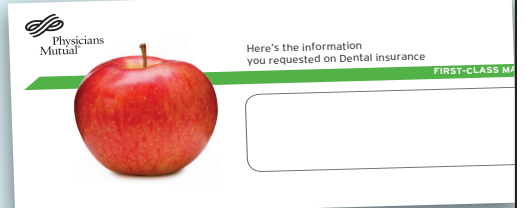
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