CASCWA’S SOUTHERN SECTION’S
LILLIE WILSON & RED BOOK
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS
JUNE 7, 2019
The Southern Section Scholarship Committee was pleased to honor six outstanding graduating seniors at the “2019 Southern Section Scholarship Luncheon on June 7th at the beautiful Canyon Crest Country Club in Riverside.

Five of the students were recipients of the “Lillie Wilson Scholarship Awards.”

One student was the recipient of the prestigious Red Book Scholarship Award. Congratulations to all of the students.
Lillie Wilson is an incredible lady. Our Southern Section Executive Board named their annual scholarship award in honor of Lillie Wilson. Ms. Wilson started her career as a nurse. She quickly found her role in life as a child advocate!

Ms. Wilson became a state wide educational leader through her work at the Los Angeles County Office of Education’s Division of Student Services. She, along with Phil Kauble, Milton Dooley, Bill Ybarra and Jerry Hime, became legends in the fields of child welfare and attendance. Ms. Wilson contributed greatly to CASCWA throughout her career and served as the Southern Section President and as the CASCWA State President. She is known for the help she gave to other, her vast knowledge of the CWA fields and her constant kindness to others.

CASCWA Southern Section is honored to have our “Lillie Wilson” annual scholarship awards presented to deserving recipients at this year’s scholarship luncheon.
Southern Section’s scholarship program is open to all CASCWA Southern Section members. Information on the 2020 scholarship program will be posted on the CASCWA website during the 2019-20 school year.

If you work with, or are aware of, a student who overcome adversity and is now on a path to go forward with his/her education, please submit a scholarship application to the Southern Section Scholarship Committee for consideration. To access our website, click on the link below:

[CASCWA Home Page]
For decades, our scholarship recipients have benefited from the generosity of the editors of the “Red Book.” Maria Bravo (pictured above) is currently the editor of the “Red Book.”

The “Red Book” is the most important document for all of our members in the fields of Child Welfare and Attendance. The document keeps current the “California Laws Relating to Minors.”

Learn more about the “Red Book” by going to: https://legalbooksdistributing.com/our-publications/

The following pages contain the struggles that each recipient has overcome!
5. I was born in California into a family that was involved in drug smuggling. My dad was killed two days before my first birthday. It was at that point my family started to fall apart even more than it was already. My Mom was in and out of County Jail and became even more heavily involved in the Cartel business. She was always leaving me and my older brother by ourselves, or with random people to take care of us. At that time, I was six years old. Then, one day, my mom never came home. While my mom was locked up, me and my brother were sent to foster care. That's when I started getting into trouble, like never going to school and always fighting. I ended up in juvenile hall and found out I was going to be a baby. When my daughter turned six months, I got into some big trouble.

6. Growing up as a child, I spent a lot of time alone. My mother was always working and my father worked at a bar when I was a baby. Growing up, my father was no longer capable of holding a job or career as he suffered from multiple mental illnesses including Schizophrenia… My mother would work all day and then come home and go to sleep. I didn’t get to see her as much so we didn’t have the best relationship. When she didn’t have work she would go out to party with her friends, drinking and going to clubs. My life consisted of going to school then coming home and spending the rest of the day with my father. The day before my 17th birthday my father stopped breathing for an unknown reason and I watched him pass away in front of me as paramedics tried to save him. That experience left an impact on who I am as a person and it’s not one I see myself forgetting. …… My mother began to become extremely mentally abusive, i feel it was her way of coping with my father’s death. I could not do anything without getting screamed or cursed at and it felt like I could do nothing right. I was more depressed than I had ever been and wanted everything to end……….
 ............. After my 18th birthday, my mother's abuse went farther from mental abuse to physical abuse. I would come home from being with friends and she would be in a drunken rage. She would try to attack me. I had decided that I had enough. I left one night after one of her drunken rages and began to live with my boyfriend.

**CONNECTED WITH OTHERS**

1. I had attended the SARB meeting on March 22, 2018, to attend my new school and hopefully get myself back on track. If it weren't for the amazing staff here I would've stayed there. I've never experienced the comfort of a teacher until I came here to this school. I can ask for help on my work and know I'll actually get it and even advice if needed. They have hands down has the best teachers and staff. They're incredibly sweet and understanding. They know exactly how to treat a student and make them feel right at home. I feel incredibly fortunate to have had them a part of my life and I'm going to be so sad when I graduate and won't be able to see their faces every day. Words cannot express the thanks I give to them for giving me a second chance to be who I thought didn't exist.

2. Through all this, those that helped me the most, and that I will never forget, is my previous counselor, and Student Services. They were there for me when I needed to talk and helped me see things through, when things came down to it and it was whether or not I'd be expelled but they really fought for me because she believed in me. More than that she didn't immediately label me and saw that I was more than what I did, more than just another kid that did drugs. I remember her asking me about how I felt about this whole situation and whether or not I wanted to stay in this school, I didn't think my opinion and how I felt on this situation really mattered, I told her that if possible I'd like to stay and I believe that it was the fact that she believed in me and had respect for me enough that I was able to get out of this whole that I had dug for myself.

3. Counselors, teachers, and other staff keep in touch with me. They have helped me to see the bigger picture in life. I have gained a valuable work ethic, self-discipline and self-control.

4. In 8th Grade, I would talk to my counselor. She helped me stand up for myself because I knew that no one else would stand up for me except myself. In high school, I would talk to the schools' social worker and she helped me to understand that not everything is going to be happy times, but there were going to be some sad times. She helped me get through the 9th and 10th grade.

5. My school counselor and other office staff have been of great help to me in this time of need. They helped me apply for college and showed me scholarships to apply to in order to achieve my goals and dreams. They are amazing people who care about me and I appreciate them very much.
1. At the beginning of my senior year, I committed to this new start not only with school but myself as well. I just had to find that spark of motivation and I finally found it after so long. At my new school, I wasn’t looked down on for my past or left to do it on my own anymore. I gained the motivation to work and be focused. I gained confidence and I started to ask for help when I needed it. My grades were excellent, my attendance was amazing, and for once in my life I started to look forward to my future and going to college to pursue my dreams.

2. Now that I’m ready to graduate, I will have the confidence and satisfaction to be able to say I did it. I overcame all the hardships in my life, pushed through everything, and showed not only everyone who ever doubted me but to myself that I was capable of doing it. I just needed to prove to myself that I could. I’m going to do what my parents never did. I’m going to graduate high school and start a future that I worked hard to achieve. But after this I was forced to accept it, I messed up and it was my problem unless I accept it I will never truly learn. Later that year I had made a speech about everything that's gone on in that past year, thanking my family for seeing things through with me and that was when I was truly able to move on.

3. I overcame difficulties by realizing that there is always going to be something happening to people. Also, that not everyone is perfect and God created us differently, but at the end of the day we are more alike than we realize. I've learned to accept my personality and how I look. With all of the mistakes that I have done that still didn't define me because I learned from them and changed before I made the same mistake twice.

4. When I started the program, I made a promise that I was going to get my act together, finish high school, and get a good paying job before I finished the program. I've stuck to that promise and I will be graduating from high school.

5. I took my father's death as an incentive for me to work even harder in school. Even if he is not here I still want to make him proud of me. While he was in my life he always pushed me to try my hardest and to go to a university and do amazing things with my life. My Junior year, the year after his death, I had a 4.0 GPA the first semester and over a 4.0 the second semester. Doing all of this while fighting with suicidal thoughts, depression, and the abuse from my mother. Now I support myself using the social security money I get every month from my father’s death. I still get good grades in school and I have been accepted into college, my dream school since I was a child. I will be graduating in June with honors from high school.
POSITIVE OUTLOOK

Now that I'm ready to graduate, I will have the confidence and satisfaction to be able to say I did it. I overcame all the hardships in my life, pushed through everything, and showed not only everyone who ever doubted me but to myself that I was capable of doing it. I just needed to prove to myself that I could. At one point I didn't have the strength to keep going and make it to the end of an achievement and the beginning of a lifetime, but now I do.

Education is a priority of mine and I hope to one day be able to provide for my family and help them just as mine did for me. I am so thankful to those that helped me through my experiences and journey, my family, the school and district, Words cannot explain my gratitude. With a little over three years to reflect what I've done, I feel as if I have done a lot of maturing but there is still much more to do.

Each component taught me that there is more to life than I was ever aware outside my neighborhood. I am ready to look to my future and set some solid goals.

Now that I am in 12th grade I feel like I am starting to understand how the world works. I might not understand it all the way because I am young, but I understand quite a bit. With everything that I have gone through that just shaped and made into the brave and smart woman I am today and I couldn't have done it without all of the help I received.

After I work for a good amount of years I am going to retire and live out the rest of my life exploring the world and trying new things.

When I started 11th grade I was just focusing on my school work, family, and friends because I knew that if I wanted to succeed, then I would have to really focus. I am now focused on my future and being there for my family, unlike my own parents.

None of this can be done without the help of scholarships and grants because I am paying for college alone, by myself. I plan to do great things with your help.

I'm going to go to college to pursue my dreams of being a veterinarian and own my own hospital one day

I want to be in the medical field. If possible I'd want to go to a UC to pursue my plans but due to financial issues I decided to go to San Bernardino which I believe is also a great school. I plan to major in Biology but am still a little on the undecided side of things.

Going to an HVAC training program through a coop of Industrial Technical Learning Center (INTECH), Chaffey College, and Chino Valley Unified School District. His first day, which is June 3, 2019. The 6-month, 8:00-3:30 Monday-Friday course leading to a Level II Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning Technician Certification.
After I graduate from high school I am planning on going to Moreno Valley Community College so I can pass my prerequisites to become a Registered Nurse. After I pass them I am planning on going to transfer to RCC to complete their nursing program. After I get my nursing degree then I am going to work at the Department of State Hospitals - Metropolitan. I decided to work there because I love helping people that are in need and also because my grandmother, mother, and father have worked there. So I want to follow in their footsteps.

After I get my diploma, I plan to enroll in the Introduction to Welding Training Program at the Industrial Technical Learning Center.

My future education plans are to go to SDSU and get a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice. I want to work in the field of forensics.

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**A SPECIAL THANK YOU!**

Behind the scholarship program are several key individuals who have made the program a reality!

The forms need to be created, the timelines set and then the process of reading and evaluating each application needs to take place.

Each reader takes their task seriously. Once the students are selected, the luncheon is put together and the awards are ordered. The recipients and their families are notified. Sponsors are invited. When the big day comes, every one is proud of what these students accomplished!

A special thank you to Michelle Walsh, Ilse Garza-Gonzales and Sandra Amitrain for their hard work.

We also want to thank our President, Jenni Mendel, for her leadership over the past two years. Mr. Rick Riegle is now following in the list of great Southern Section Presidents. Thanks to all who made this day special!
THANK YOU SOUTHERN SECTION FOR EACH OF THE 2019 SCHOLARSHIP SELECTIONS AND AWARDS!
SOUTHERN SECTION IS HOSTING CASCWA’S 2020 STATE CONFERENCE AT THE BAHIA HOTEL IN SAN DIEGO. WE HOPE TO SEE THERE! GO TO: WWW.CASCWA.ORG