



**CALIFORNIA SQUARE DANCE COUNCIL, INC.  
YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
2005 SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION**

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**DANIELLE OLIVERA WINS 2005 CALIFORNIA SQUARE DANCE SCHOLARSHIP**

On Saturday, May 14, 2005, California Square Dance Council Presidents John and Jackie Rowe had the pleasure of presenting the 2005 Council-sponsored college scholarship to Novato resident, Danielle Rose Olivera. The \$250 award was handed out in Modesto, CA, during the quarterly business meeting of the Council. Danielle was accompanied to the ceremony by her proud mother, Eva (Czubak) Olivera.

Danielle Olivera is a 17-year-old senior honor student at Saint Vincent de Paul High School in Petaluma, CA, where she ranks among the top ten in her class. Danielle has already been accepted at the University of California, Davis where she plans to study pharmacy.

Being part of a square dancing family, Danielle joined the Adobe Squares in 2001 and rapidly established her individual place within the club. She has served as club secretary and has been a member of the Anniversary Dance committee since 2002, and in 2004, joined the Boots and Bells club in Napa so that she could serve as the Youth Co-Chair for the 2005 Golden State Roundup scheduled Memorial Weekend in Pleasanton.

In his letter of recommendation, Adobe Squares President Fred Bartow wrote, "From day one Danielle has been an asset to the club. She is always there when you need her. Even with a full load of studies at school and participating in other school functions, Danielle still finds time to be involved with club activities and other square dance functions. Danielle, her family and youth friends attend many different square dance festivals and conventions." He added that, "Danielle excels in the promotion and perpetuation of the square dance movement. Through the efforts of Danielle communicating to her high school peers the benefits of square dancing, she has brought to our club over three squares of youth. None of our adult members has ever had this distinction."

A major part of the scholarship application process is for applicants to write an essay explaining how square dancing has had an impact on their life. Below is Danielle's essay, which she read for the Council members prior to the award presentation ...

***Impacts of Square Dancing***

*Everything in life becomes a learning experience; a new school, your first time driving a car alone and your first boyfriend. Square dancing has been no different for me. When I started dancing five years ago, I never imagined the situations that I would face and the experiences I would gain. Though I have learned many things while being involved in the square dance community, a few stand out in my mind. I have become more outgoing and involved, have realized that I am the only one who can judge my life with credibility and finally, that there are many good people in this world.*

*I began dancing when I was in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and was immediately ridiculed for my choice of activity. While my peers were away for basketball games, I was out dancing. While my classmates took a canoeing fieldtrip and experimented on a local river, I was on my way to Silver State. This is where I*



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*began to realize that the way I viewed myself was the only important one. I believe that self discovery is important during the teenage years, and often, what most teens struggle with. I have grown a lot since then and think and do as I like, without being afraid of who I am.*

*As I entered high school, my square dance involvement increased drastically. While at school I was plagued with the constant thought that everyone was terrible, I was learning that this was not true. I have met many interesting and amazing people while square dancing and have enjoyed the knowledge and the love that each one has provided. Entering the community as I did, I feel that I really did gain a new family and call some members grandma or aunt. It is possible to find goodness in a world that seems rather grim.*

*Stricken with fear, I rarely went out of my way to make new friends, meet people, or help the community. Square dancers definitely pushed me to do this. The people in the community are so friendly and open that it is difficult to stay quiet. Their encouragement, interest and support have motivated me to take offices in the club, start community service and make new friends. I am very thankful for this because I am unaware of how long it would have been before I could be this open with my life and my talents.*

*I feel that square dancing has had a large impact on every aspect of my life, not only the ones that others see. The warmth, friendship and commitment of dancing has made me strive to farther become involved in the community and I hope that the things I have learned will stay with me through life. Today, my friends spend their weekends taking the 125 mile drive to Fort Bragg for basketball games but I would choose to take the 432.7 mile drive to Silver State or the 1056.3 mile drive to Boise, Idaho over anything else.*

Following an extended ovation from the packed audience of statewide leaders, Danielle was presented with a plaque by the Rowes. An added surprise for Danielle is that John and Carol, editors of *Local Square Magazine*, based in Lakeside (San Diego County) have donated an additional \$100 towards her scholarship award, bringing her total award to \$350.

Congratulations, Danielle, from all of your square dancing friends around the World – you've been a great ambassador and a wonderful leader. This is a well deserved recognition for a well deserving young lady.

Many, many thanks go out to all of the individual dancers and clubs who have supported the youth scholarship program. If you would like to support the scholarship program, donations may be made directly to the California Square Dance Council Scholarship, c/o 3039 Bridgeford Drive, Sacramento, CA 95833. Or, you can support the scholarship program by purchasing California State Convention Grand Prize Tickets each year and designating "YOUTH" as the club selling the ticket. A portion of the proceeds from each ticket sold or purchased on behalf of the youth program will go towards the scholarship program. Have a youth dancer who is at least a senior in high school but not yet 21? Download a copy of our scholarship application from the California Square Dance Council, Inc. website, <http://squaredance.org>.