



Press Release

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Montebello High ASB President Earns Top Award at National Teen Leadership Program Summer Camp

The Annual Camp Promotes Diversity and Strengthens Communication Skills for Young Adults

MONTEBELLO – Montebello High School student Michelle Mkhlian recently received the Ambassador’s Award, the highest award bestowed at the National Teen Leadership Program’s (NTLP) annual summer camp. The award exemplifies the goals and spirit of the program and is the second honor in as many years for Mkhlian, a senior, who earned the NTLP’s Overall Achievement Award in 2014.

“This is certainly great news for Montebello Unified, especially since the NTLP has truly recognized and supported our young adults over the years,” Board of Education President Edgar Cisneros said. “We congratulate Michelle for her achievements in NTLP and for exemplifying just how committed our students are to becoming our future leaders.”

Mkhlian was chosen by her fellow students with the honor announced at the camp’s closing ceremony and awards program.

The NTLP is a non-profit organization that offers leadership camps and workshops for high school students over the summer and during the school year. During its annual three-day camp, NTLP empowers today’s youth by providing them with the skills and motivation to improve their own lives and those in their communities.

At the camp, held at Chapman University in July, the Montebello High Associated Student Body (ASB) president not only earned the admiration and respect of her peers, but her commitment to stellar leadership also impressed National Teen Leadership Program officials.

“It was a formidable task, but Michelle, nevertheless, made it her personal mission to meet and talk to all 150 students from three countries and 14 states,” NTLP Board Member Mark Miller said. “She was truly an outstanding leader.”

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The nomination surprised Mkhlian. “I was in shock when I was nominated, and I was in complete shock when it was announced that I had won the Ambassador’s Award,” she said. “The NTLP is an amazing program that has helped me develop leadership skills. Over the past two years, I have improved my communication skills and learned to appreciate diversity.”

Mkhlian has applied for the NTLP Fellows \$2,500 college scholarship. To qualify, candidates must use the skills they have learned at NTLP camps to identify a situation or issue in the community and write a plan that would offer a remedy. With approval from the NTLP scholarship committee, candidates put the plan into action over eight to 12 months and present the results to the committee.

“We are very proud of Michelle for receiving recognition from the National Teen Leadership Program and for her efforts throughout her high school career,” Superintendent of Schools Susanna Contreras Smith said. “Best of luck to her as she tackles her senior year and in her quest for the fellowship and scholarship.”

A talented violinist and singer, Mkhlian, is in her fourth year of serving on student government. She is considering a number of universities after she graduates in the spring and is interested in working in the communications field. She is an active member of the National Honor Society and the California Scholarship Federation, while playing on her school's league championship water polo team.

Photo Caption:

Montebello High School senior Michelle Mkhlian recently received the Ambassador’s Award, the highest award bestowed at the National Teen Leadership Program’s (NTLP) annual summer camp held in July.

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Montebello Unified School District is a dynamic learning institution employing top-quality educators. It is the combined work of many that allows the District to continue educating more than 30,000 students every year using the 40 Developmental Assets at all of our school sites. It is through everyone’s efforts – students, parents, teachers, staff and administrators – that we are achieving the District’s number one goal of raising student achievement. Learn more online at www.montebello.k12.ca.us.