



Enriquez earns full ride to Whitman

The Murr Scholarship provides tuition, room and board at Whitman College to one Wa-Hi grad each year.

Updated: Tuesday, June 19, 2007 2:00 PM PDT

By Maria P. Gonzalez of the Union-Bulletin

Attending Whitman College after high school was something Jeraldine Enriquez knew she wanted to do by the time she was finishing her sophomore year.



Walla Walla High School student Jeraldine Enriquez will bring her swimming goggles and academic talents to Whitman College next fall as this year's recipient of the Murr Scholarship. U-B photo by Jeff Horner

As her senior year approached and she had visited the Whitman campus, she grew more confident of her choice.

``Every time I'd go to the school I'd love it even more," the 17-year-old said.

But Enriquez did more than secure her dream of attending Whitman after graduating from Walla Walla High School this month.

Enriquez will attend the liberal arts college as this year's Murr Scholarship recipient. Earning the scholarship secured tuition and room and board while she works for her four-year degree.

The scholarship is awarded each year to an outstanding Wa-Hi grad who demonstrates a commitment to academics and extracurricular activities and who plans to attend Whitman College but has a financial need.

Enriquez's focus on school work earned her a cumulative 3.6 grade point average. She also dedicated four years to the varsity swim team at Wa-Hi, where she was team captain her senior year. The oldest of three children, she will be the first in her family to attend college.

Quick to smile and easily confident, Enriquez explained recently how following through on her goals to the best of her abilities is part of who she is.

``My personality is to get things done," she said. ``When I'm committed to something, I want to do it well."

Swimming is one way Enriquez has demonstrated her drive to give her best at what she does. She has been swimming since she was 6, and hopes to continue competitive swimming on the Whitman swim team. She will try out for the team this summer, although she has already been in contact with team members and leaders.

``That's definitely one of the biggest things I'm looking forward to," she said.

Getting to stay in Walla Walla, where she was born and grew up, will be an added bonus. Enriquez wants to be close to her parents and her younger brother and sister.

The chance to attend Whitman on a full scholarship is just as much a tribute to her parents as it is a personal recognition for her hard work and dedication.

``They've given me everything that I need, and more," she said about her parents, naming love and encouragement as some of their gifts.

``I want to do it because I want them to be happy," she said.

ABOUT THE MURR SCHOLARSHIP

The Murr Scholarship is sponsored by the Murr Family Foundation and combined with Whitman financial aid. Michael Murr graduated from Wa-Hi in 1969. He and his wife, Eva, established a fund at Whitman College to help fund the education of one Wa-Hi graduate every year. Murr is a member of the Walla Walla Athletic Hall of Fame and has been recognized as a Graduate of Distinction by Walla Walla Public Schools. He went on to study at Harvard, where he earned his bachelor of arts and MBA degrees.

_ From Whitman.edu

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