



The 2009 Dr. Barbara Wade Salm Scholarship Recipient



Leah Oakes

“My artwork allows me to approach extremely liberal and controversial issues that many feel are too torrid. I use my skills as an artist to voice my opinion on social, moral, and political topics where I am not afraid of the critique in return. As a student volunteering my time to community efforts to help achieve equal liberty has an effect that helps to change the world along with individual’s perceptions”

These determined words come from Leah Oakes, honor roll student, Student of the Month in Foreign Language and Social Science, and Junior Varsity Water Polo team member who graduated June 2009 from Cathedral City High School. She now attends California State University at Northridge where Leah plans to pursue degrees in Art with an emphasis in photography and graphic design and Feminist Study and Sexuality.

Leah’s passionate concern for the well being for others was demonstrated by her devotion to being an active volunteer in Adopt-A-Family, Toys for Tots, Cathedral City Healing Fields, Paws and Hearts, and the Cathedral City Blood Bank.

Leah’s creative abilities were utilized as a Teen Docent at the Palm Springs Museum and a volunteer at the Palm Springs International Film Festival.

Leah believes she is driven to achieve in college and life by her mother’s emphasis on helping others, wanting Leah to get a college education, and taking action when times are difficult and the obstacles seem overwhelming.