



Solano Community College Educational Foundation

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 21, 2016

Solano Community College student receives first Suisun Valley Vintners and Growers Association Maurice J. Koch Scholarship. *First of two annual scholarships awarded to SCC student seeking a career in agriculture.*

Fairfield, California (Friday, October 21, 2016)— The Suisun Valley Vintners and Growers Association (SVVGA) and the Solano Community College (SCC) Educational Foundation have an agreement in place to support SCC students seeking a career in agriculture. The first student to receive the SVVGA Maurice J. Koch Memorial Scholarship is Sean Adams, an SCC student taking 18.5 credit hours this semester. Mr. Adams will receive a two-year scholarship in the amount of \$1,500 per year (\$3,000 total).

The purpose of the SVVGA scholarships is to encourage students from within Solano County to pursue an education in agriculture and viticulture. Each year, for a total of five years, one SCC freshman student will be awarded a scholarship. SVVGA will make annual contributions to the SCC Educational Foundation in the total amount of \$15,000. The scholarship recipient must be enrolled as a full-time SCC student and want to pursue a career in agriculture, such as farming or ranching, or in the viticulture and wine production industry. The recipient must reside in Solano County, or have graduated from high school in Solano County.

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Roger King, President of SVVGA, stated “Awarding the first scholarship is a milestone that the Suisun Valley Vintners and Growers Association Board of Directors has been looking forward to. It is our honest hope that young individuals in Solano County will give agriculture full consideration as a viable career; it has been the historic backbone of Solano County. The naming of the scholarship is our way of recognizing the tremendous contributions of Maurry Koch. In addition, we’re planning our first Suisun Valley Wine Auction next month. A portion of the proceeds from this event will help fund the scholarship program.”

The Suisun Valley Wine Auction will be held Saturday Nov 5th in the barrel room at Wooden Valley Winery. Dinner is being prepared by Peter Halikas at Mankas Steakhouse. Auction lots have been developed by the SVVGA Board of Directors. Each lot will include a specialty experience from vineyard dinners to ski trips with a winemaker. SVVGA hopes to attract a base of Solano County business and professional leaders who understand the value of higher education and will help support the scholarship program.

Curt Johnston added “Supporting full time students will help them complete an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree in two years, and hopefully transfer to one of the great four-year institutions in California with a strong agriculture degree program. It’s been a pleasure to work with Roger King and the SVVGA Board to help them accomplish their goal of supporting SCC students seeking a career in agriculture.” Tax deductible donations to this scholarship may be made in honor Maurice Koch directly to SCCEF. SCCEF is the 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation (EIN 94-2985548) that supports SCC students and the College. For more information about SCCEF, visit www.foundation.solano.edu or contact Curt Johnston at curt.johnston@solano.edu or (707) 864-7141. For more information about SVVGA, contact Roger King, President of SVVGA, at (707) 425-9076 or lwineyard@aol.com

Note: The associated photo shows Sean Adams (Center), Roger King (left) and Ken Williams, SCC Horticulture Professor (right).

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About Solano Community College Educational Foundation

The Solano Community College Educational Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) California nonprofit public benefit corporation. It was established in 1985 to raise funds to support students

and educational excellence at Solano Community College, and to help carry out the vision of “Transforming Students’ Lives.” The Foundation efforts are focused on helping students achieve their education goals, but it’s also building a stronger community. An educated workforce is the foundation of every community. SCC provides the postsecondary education and training local citizens need to obtain quality jobs. The results are measured by lower unemployment rates, stable employment, and enhanced quality of life for all. For more information visit www.foundation.solano.edu or contact Curt Johnston, Executive Director, at curt.johnston@solano.edu or 707-864-7141.

About Suisun Valley Vintners and Growers Association

The Suisun Valley Vintners and Growers Association is an association of farmers, grape growers and vintners established to support the Suisun Valley appellation, a part of the larger regional North Coast AVA. Suisun Valley, located northwest of Fairfield, CA is just 8 miles long north to south and 3 miles wide east to west. Suisun Valley has a full 14 degree daytime temperature differential from lower valley to upper valley, and significant marine influence that provides premium growing conditions. For more information visit www.suisunvalley.com or contact Roger King, President of SVVGA, at (707) 425-9076 or lwvineyard@aol.com.

Maurice “Maury” Joseph Koch was a founding member of the Board of Directors for the Suisun Valley Vintner and Growers Association, and was past President of Green Valley Country Club. He enjoyed raising his family, tending to his vineyard and helping with fundraising for the control of open space through the Solano Land Trust.