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For Immediate Release

Press Contacts:

Julie McLeod

(805) [565-1332](tel:565-1332)/julieok@aol.com

Nicole Helton

(805) [966-6950](tel:966-6950)/dance@sbdancealliance.org



NEWS RELEASE

Santa Barbara Dance Alliance Scholarships and Teen Awards

Summary Facts:

- **What:** Santa Barbara Dance Alliance Scholarship and Teen Award Winners with Helene Schneider
- **Where:** Presented during ON THE VERGE: Teen Choreographers' Showcase
- **When:** May 31, 2008, at the Marjorie Luke Theatre
- **Who:** Helene Schneider and Santa Barbara Dance Alliance
- **Public Information:** 805 966-6950, www.sbdancealliance.org

Twelve exceptional young dancers were honored with Santa Barbara Dance Alliance Summer Scholarship Awards on Saturday May 31, 2008. The awards were presented at ON THE VERGE: Teen Choreographers' Showcase at The Marjorie Luke Theatre by Helene Schneider, City Council Member and Julie McLeod, SBDA Executive Director.

This year's summer recipients started with a recommendation from their studios for scholarship competition on the basis of talent, dedication and financial need. Having excelled in auditions held May 17th, the young artists received awards of up to \$500 matching funds for summer dance study. The audition panel is comprised of professional dancers.

Council Member Schneider presented an award to each of the dancers who represent local studios ranging from flamenco, jazz, musical theatre dance and ballet: Sydney Anne Burkert, Everybody Can Dance; Marlon Dorantes, Paloma Rios School of Flamenco; Bridgett Figueroa, Santa Barbara Dance Arts; Alexandra

Freres, Cruz Dance & Entertainment; Odalys Gonzalez, Montecito School of Ballet; Kaila Holford, Everybody Can Dance; Sabrina Ibarra, Linda Vega Studio; Miranda Jaimes, Linda Vega Studio; Rachel Lindsay, Fuego Gitano Dance Studio; Glee Morse, Stage Left Productions; Natalia Perea, Gustafson Dance Studio; and Olivia Villalovos, Linda Vega Studio.

Year after year, Santa Barbara Dance Alliance watches the teens mature in their dancing. They go on to university dance departments, become professional dancers, and many return to Santa Barbara to teach. We are proud of our "Future Dancers of America!"

SBDA's Dance Education Scholarship Program is generously supported by Jean Kaplan, Ann Jackson Family Foundation, The John & Beverly Stauffer Foundation, Palazzio Restaurant, Montecito Bank & Trust, Margo & Robert Feinberg, Performing Arts Scholarship Foundation, and Venoco, Inc.

Daniela Zermeño received SBDA's third "Teen of the Year" award for her contribution to the community and dance in Santa Barbara. Daniela started her own dance studio, Fuego Gitano at age twelve. Now, at 19 she teaches dance to more than 50 students ages 3 through adult. Daniela has been Senior Spirit Runner-up for Fiesta in 2006 and 2008. Additionally, she coaches the San Marcos High Marquettes and assists with the La Colina Junior High Emeralds Performing Team. Daniela is the only teen to have performed in all 13 of SBDA's ON THE VERGE performances.

Jackie Rotman, 16, was inspired by her participation in ON THE VERGE at age 12 to create *Everybody Dance Now!*, a non-profit after school program that teaches dance to 250 9-12 year olds who could not otherwise afford it. SBDA has mentored Jackie with *Everybody Dance Now!* since its inception. She received SBDA's second, "Teen of the Year" award in 2007. She has received numerous grants for her program, was recently named Junior Miss California and second runner up for Junior Miss USA. This year, Susan Young director of SB's Teen Programs, created a special award honoring Jackie's outstanding contributions at the Teen Leadership Awards. Jackie will attend Stanford University in the Fall.

Santa Barbara Dance Alliance's Dance Education Scholarship Program is one of its most important projects for the development of our "Future Dancers of America" and the promotion of dance in our community. For more information on the Alliance and how to become a donor partner to next season's winners, call 805 966-6950 and see our website at www.sbdancealliance.org

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**Editor: For photos: Download High Res images at
www.sbdancealliance.org/press/releases/ or call Nicole Helton at
805.966.6950**