



**Contact:**

Tracie Stafford  
Publicist  
P: 916-995-4435  
TracieS@OvationPR.net

**For Immediate Release:**

**Miss Sacramento County Scholarship Association Celebrates 65 Years**  
*Over \$150,000 in Scholarships Awarded to College Bound Women*

**Sacramento CA, January 11, 2016** - On January 30, 2016 at 7:00pm, the Miss Sacramento County Scholarship Association, a non-profit (501c3) organization, will crown the 65th Miss Sacramento County Queen during its annual pageant at the Benvenuti Performing Arts Center in Sacramento, CA. Founded by the Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce, the Miss Sacramento County pageant has crowned 64 queens and awarded hundreds of young women with college scholarships totaling over \$150,000. The Miss Sacramento County Scholarship pageant is associated with Miss America, the longest standing pageant in the nation.

April Smith, Executive Director and former Miss Mendocino County, became involved with the program hoping to raise funds for her college education. "I entered the pageant for the scholarship money but gained so much more." She began, "Through the program, I not only earned funds and completed my college education, but gained confidence and a family of volunteers who have been in my life for 25 years."

Ms. Smith's story is not unique as many young women compete for the scholarships, but stay involved for personal growth, public speaking, media and philanthropic opportunities as well as to have fun. Because the program is non-profit all staff is volunteer which enables the organization to waive contestant fees. To make the program even more attainable, the organization maintains a 'pageant closet' from which wardrobe is loaned for all levels of competition.

"I love seeing young women go on with their lives and accomplish their goals." Stated Ms. Smith, "The relationships that I've built have been worth the time volunteered to make the program a success."

The Miss Sacramento County Alumni includes dozens of accomplished women such as Ahtossa Piroozfar Fullerton (1993) an attorney and philanthropist, Tiffany Heckendorn (2011) a 3<sup>rd</sup> year medical student, Altinay (Tia) Miller (1998) an actor on Broadway, Dr. Michelle Bartolome, DMD (2001) a dentist specializing in cosmetic dentistry, Linda Hines Saunders (1960) an actor (Bobbie Jo on the TV series Petticoat Junction) and our beloved Patricia Lehman Blucher (1951) who went on to win the title of Miss California, had a 35 year teaching career and remains a Sacramento County resident.

For more information about the Miss Sacramento Scholarship Pageant or its sister programs, please visit [www.miss-sacramento-county.org](http://www.miss-sacramento-county.org) or contact Tracie Stafford at Ovation PR at 916-995-4435.

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*Leave Them Standing*