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**ORTHO DERMATOLOGICS ANNOUNCES ASPIRE HIGHER SCHOLARSHIP HONOREES**

Scholarship Program Awards Students Across the Country Impacted by Dermatologic Conditions

Raleigh, NC, November 14, 2017 – Ortho Dermatologics, one of the largest prescription dermatology healthcare businesses in the world, today announced the nine recipients of the Aspire Higher Scholarship program, which honors the achievements of applicants or current attendees of an accredited, nonprofit, two- or four-year college, university, or advanced (post-high school) vocational or technical school who have been treated for a dermatologic condition.

“Ortho Dermatologics is proud to help these outstanding individuals achieve their educational goals through our annual scholarship program,” said Bill Humphries, executive vice president and group company chairman, Ortho Dermatologics. “Beyond the challenging demands of their schooling, these students have also had to overcome the difficulties of living with a problematic skin condition such as eczema, psoriasis, ichthyosis and acne. We applaud their aspirations and their determination.”

Three scholarships were awarded in each of three categories: Undergraduate Scholar Awards for students pursuing an undergraduate degree, Graduate Scholar Awards for students pursuing a graduate degree and Today’s Woman Scholar Awards for students who are mothers pursuing higher education. A panel of judges consisting of dermatologists from across the country reviewed each of the applications and chose the nine honorees.

To apply for the scholarship, applicants were asked to submit an essay discussing how their dermatologic condition, and the subsequent treatment received by their dermatologist, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner, has impacted their life. The nine honorees were chosen from a pool of 2,179 applicants and will each receive \$10,000 towards their education.

The nine recipients of the 2017 Aspire Higher scholarship program are:

Undergraduate student winners - for students pursuing an undergraduate degree.

- Jordan Johnson of Friendswood, Texas, who will attend the University of Arkansas

- Robert (Robby) Ruffolo of Dayton, Ohio, who will attend the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill)
- Meredith Richards of Kinderhook, New York, who is currently enrolled at Utah State University

Graduate student winners - for students pursuing a graduate degree.

- Madeline Gore of Lakeville, Minnesota, who will attend Loyola University of Chicago
- Braden Candela of Rochester, New York, who is currently enrolled at the University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry
- Shulei (Shelley) Chen of Walnut, California, who is currently enrolled at UC Berkeley – UCSF Joint Medical Program

Today's Woman Scholar winners - for students who are mothers and pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree.

- Amy Feldman of South Jordan, Utah, who is currently enrolled at Brigham Young University
- Bianca Bzdel of Mill Valley, CA, who is currently enrolled at the University of California Davis
- Carine Henderson of Sandy, Utah, who has been accepted to the graduate program at Brigham Young University

Since 2013, the Aspire Higher scholarship program has awarded 23 scholarships to students across the country.

Additional information about the Ortho Dermatologics Aspire Higher scholarship program can be found at [AspireHigherScholarships.com](http://AspireHigherScholarships.com). The 2018 program will begin accepting applications in early 2018.

**About Ortho Dermatologics**

Ortho Dermatologics, a Valeant Pharmaceuticals International, Inc. company, is one of the largest prescription dermatology businesses in the world dedicated to helping patients in the treatment of a range of therapeutic areas including actinic keratosis, acne, atopic dermatitis, cold sores, athlete's foot, nail fungus and other dermatoses. The Ortho Dermatologics portfolio includes several leading acne, anti-fungal and anti-infective products. More information can be found at [www.ortho-dermatologics.com](http://www.ortho-dermatologics.com).

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