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Scholarship founder Earl K. Wood, DTM and Division Governor Scott Hoehn, DTM present the first place trophy (and \$1,500 scholarship) to Camilo Rojas (center)

Ten talented Seniors dazzle crowd in Earl Wood Scholarship Contest 4/28

by Scott Hoehn, DTM

Ten incredibly talented and ambitious students competed for the **Earl K. Wood Scholarship Award** at the First Presbyterian Church of Orlando on Monday, April 28, 2008. The students' career goals ranged from attorney to civil rights activist to Disney "imagineer" to biologist and everything in between. Their speeches were judged on the same level that International Speech contestants are judged in Toastmasters International. Organization, appearance, relevance to audience, body language, vocal quality and more are

some of the criteria in which they were rated.

All were winners!

Although all students put their hearts into their presentations, in any such competition, only one can walk home with the prize. That outstanding

student was **Camilo Rojas**. The young man clearly stated his points while commanding the room with his confidence. He had very limited use of notes and was able to include other students' career goals to encourage persistence in achieving goals. Congratulations on a job well done!

Conqueror members help fund award

Monday night's successful contest answered the question why the Orlando Conquerors Club is one of the only Toastmasters Clubs that has a 50/50 drawing at every meeting. The funds collected are put toward the Earl K. Wood Scholarship Award. Every year, students from many of Orange County's

schools are given an opportunity to "**Speak for their future**". They are invited to compete at our club in front of a panel of distinguished judges.

The grand prize is a donation toward their tuition which will be presented to their accepting college. The founder of the Annual Scholarship Award, Earl K. Wood, DTM, has not only been a member of Orlando Conquerors Toastmasters for 52 years, but he has also served as the Orange County Tax Collector for 44 years and is running for re-election at the age of 92! His dedication to education and personal advancement is well known throughout Orange County.

Elizabeth Brothers attends contest

The opening keynote address was given by Life Member and Past District Governor, **Karl Richter, DTM**. Karl injected his well-known humor throughout his talk to emphasize the importance of education and our Club's commitment to support the scholarship fund. Past president **Elizabeth Brothers, ATM**, the Scholarship Fund Administrator, was present for the festivities and was praised for her continuing hard work to keep the program on track.

Final acknowledgements

Later in the evening, Earl K Wood gave a heartfelt commendation to the students for their performances. He only wished that he had ten scholarships to give each of them. Division Governor **Scott Hoehn II, DTM** presented the first place award to Camilo, then encouraged all students to join a Toastmasters Club as one of the best steps toward their future. Governor Hoehn said that the finest gift in life that his father, **Scott Hoehn, Sr** gave him was an introduction to the world of Toastmasters. "It will give you an edge over your fellow students and every obstacle you encounter in life", Hoehn said.

Calendar of Events

May 12 – Officer's Meeting, 6:00 PM before regular weekly meeting

May 17 – **29th Annual Beach Party** – 1066 & Winter Park Toastmasters

May 26 - No meeting in honor of Memorial Day

June 5 – **After-work Mixer** with Winter Park Toastmasters at Scruffy murphy’s

June 19, 20, 21 – **Region VIII Convention** in Atlanta. **Karl Righter, DTM** will emcee a *Friday Night Humor Fest* and present his *Bombproof Humor workshop* on Saturday

June 30 – **Semi-Annual Awards & Installation Banquet**