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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KHEDF Scholarship Recipient selected as KU University Scholar

Wichita, Kan.- Sofia de la O Villarreal, a 2013 Kansas Hispanic Education & Development Foundation scholarship recipient, was one of twenty students selected as a University Scholar at The University of Kansas. De la O Villarreal is a second year student at KU majoring in chemical engineering and pre-medicine. Students are selected for this honor based on academic credentials, commitment to their education, intellectual promise and evaluations by instructors, advisers and other faculty members. Students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.75 or higher to be eligible as a KU University Scholar.

This isn't the first time De la O Villarreal has been recognized for her achievements. In addition to being selected as a Kansas Hispanic Education & Development Foundation Scholarship recipient she has also made the Engineering Dean's List and was a Kansas Honor Scholar while attending high school at Heights High School.

Yolanda Camarena, board president for KHEDF said, "The board is so proud that Sofia was selected as a University Scholar. KHEDF is thrilled that we can make an impact on student's futures by providing opportunities to obtain a post-secondary education."

De la O Villarreal came to the United States from Mexico when she was a child. Her family lived in several cities, and she learned to adapt to her new surroundings and became involved in helping others adapt. She also developed an interest in practicing medicine. This led her to participate in several pre-medical organizations while in high school. She plans to pursue her interest in human disease research.

Being selected as a University Scholar will allow her to participate in a seminar led by Philip Baringer, associate chair and professor of physics and astronomy. According to Baringer, "It's a privilege to get to teach a seminar to 20 of the best students on campus. We'll be exploring the theme of 'time' from a variety of perspectives. In addition she will receive a scholarship (\$250 per semester for five semesters) and will be connected with a faculty mentor.

The University Scholars Program was founded in the spring of 1982 by Judge Deanell Tacha, then vice chancellor for academic affairs, and the late Professor Francis Heller. The program now counts more than 700 alumni who have gone on to success in a variety of professions.

The University of Kansas is a major comprehensive research and teaching university. The university's mission is to lift students and society by educating leaders, building healthy communities and making discoveries that change the world. The KU News Service is the central public relations office for the Lawrence campus. kunews@ku.edu | 1450 Jayhawk Blvd., Suite 37, Lawrence, KS 66045

- See more at: <http://news.ku.edu/2015/01/23/newest-class-university-scholars-represent-best-kus-future#sthash.GHcohmhc.dpuf>

For more information about KHEDF visit <http://www.khedf.org/>.

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Kansas Hispanic Education & Development Foundation mission is to serve Kansas Hispanic students and professionals by providing opportunities for education and leadership development.

KHEDF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed in 2007 by the Wichita Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Inc. to provide a platform for donors to make tax-deductible contributions for scholarships and education initiatives.