San Luis Obispo -- The Cal Poly Women’s Studies Program recently awarded scholarships to two students who have demonstrated a commitment to women’s rights.

Psychology major Rebecca Swanson from Yucaipa received the Dr. Shirley H. Walker Scholarship, and electrical engineering student Rebecca Freeman from Tucson, Ariz., received the Vicki and Darell Farrer Scholarship.

The Shirley H. Walker Scholarship recognizes a Cal Poly student who has demonstrated a commitment to women's equality issues by serving as a leader in organizations that have the primary purpose of promoting women's rights politically, economically and socially.

Swanson was honored for her involvement in such events as Run To ReMEmber, Cool Chicks on Campus, ReMEmber Week, the Women's Center, Cal Poly Women's Awareness Club, Clinic Watch and the Women's Preventative Health Initiative. She also initiated the Women's Forum, an event that brings together women from the community and the campus to talk about gender issues.

Swanson was recognized for “maintaining an almost superhuman level of commitment to the social and political well-being of women.”

The Vicki and Darell Farrer Scholarship recognizes a College of Engineering major or chemistry, physics or statistics major in the College of Science and Mathematics who has demonstrated a commitment to women's equality issues by serving as a leader in organizations that have the primary purpose of promoting women’s rights politically, economically and socially.

Freeman is a member of the Cal Poly chapter of the Society of Women Engineers, and as a participant in Habitat for Humanity, she helped rebuild a local retirement home for elderly couples.
She has attended a National Organization of Women (NOW) conference to learn more about issues faced by professional women.

In her nomination letter, Freeman was called “an excellent student who will continue to inspire both her fellow students and her teachers alike.”

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