



PRESS RELEASE
See attached graphic.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Hardy Diagnostics Founder Establishes Scholarship Fund

Financial assistance with college costs for employees and their families



Jay Hardy with 2013 scholarship recipients: Matt Jimenez and Rhonda Martinez. Photo by Teresa Rodil

SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, SEPTEMBER 04 –Jay Hardy, president of Hardy Diagnostics, and his wife Anne have established a college scholarship fund through the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara. Every year, the Hardy Family Scholarship Fund will help Hardy Diagnostics employees and their children pay for the increasingly high cost of higher education.

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"I received my college education in the 1970s when the State Colleges in California were virtually free. It is distressing for me today to see families struggle financially to send their kids to college. This shouldn't be so," Jay explains. "Through the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara, we can at least provide a free education for our employees at a community college. It gives me great satisfaction to know that these kids can now have the same opportunities that I had, regardless of their family's financial ability," Jay stated.

This year, the Hardy Family Scholarship Fund provided 12 scholarships to various Hardy employees and their children for use at community colleges or four year colleges. Everyone who applied received a scholarship this year. The Hardy Family wanted to give something back to the employees that would be of lasting benefit to the future of their families.

"The folks at the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara have been extremely helpful in this endeavor. The experts there take care of all the administrative details making the whole process very easy for us," Jay said.

Shayna Broadstone, one of the scholarship recipients stated, "This gesture will contribute to the achievement of a goal I have set for myself from a young age. As a first generation college student, I could not be more grateful. I will remember this gesture of generosity throughout my education and my future career in the hospitality industry."

Hardy Diagnostics was founded in 1980 in Santa Barbara after Jay completed his Medical Technology internship at Cottage Hospital. Today the company has 215 employees and maintains its headquarters in Santa Maria, a manufacturing facility in Ohio, and seven remote distribution warehouses.

To fulfill its mission "to diagnose and prevent disease," the company manufactures culture media and rapid identification methods for bacteria and fungi, which it supplies to hospitals, food processors, and pharmaceutical companies.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT HARDY DIAGNOSTICS - Hardy Diagnostics is an FDA licensed and ISO 13485 certified manufacturer of medical devices for microbiological procedures in both clinical and industrial laboratories. Hardy Diagnostics was founded in 1980 in Santa Barbara by Jay Hardy and Robert Shibata after they completed their Medical Technology training in the laboratory at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital.

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Hardy Diagnostics manufactures over 3,200 different products for the culture and identification of bacteria and fungi. Among its offerings are products used to culture and detect pathogens commonly reported in the news, such as *E. coli*, *Salmonella*, *Listeria*, MRSA, and Influenza. In addition, the company manufactures reagents and media for use by molecular biology researchers. Over 8,000 laboratories throughout the nation rely on Hardy Diagnostics for their supplies.

Today, Hardy Diagnostics employs over 215 workers and maintains eight distribution centers throughout the U.S. Manufacturing takes place at its headquarters in Santa Maria, California and at the new facility in Springboro, Ohio. The company also exports products through over 40 foreign distributors. The company's mission is to "partner with its laboratory customers to prevent and diagnose disease." For more information, visit www.HardyDiagnostics.com.

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