

HONORS SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

The CNMI Scholarship Advisory Board (SAB) would like to remind scholarship applicants from Tinian and Rota that its Honors Scholarship Awards are not automatically awarded to the Valedictorian and Salutatorian from each island. This assumption is understandable as the former law, Public Law 7-32, the “Postsecondary Education Scholarship of 1990,” awarded the Honors Scholarship directly to the Valedictorian and Salutatorian in Tinian and Rota. This law was amended by Public Law 14-37, the “CNMI Honor Scholarship Act of 2004,” which set additional criteria for applicants. What this means is that Public Law 14-37 eliminated the automatic awarding of the Honors Scholarship to the Valedictorian and Salutatorian from Rota and Tinian.

Additionally, the CNMI SAB would like to advise this year’s high school seniors who are considering competing for a CNMI Scholarship Office Honors Scholarship (funded by public monies), that the Board is legally bound to use the statutorily-mandated criteria set forth in Section 3.2.2 of the *Rules and Regulations Governing the CNMI Honors Scholarship Program* when selecting Honors Scholarship award recipients. It is important to note that our criteria to determine awards are different and separate from the criteria the Public School System uses to award distinctions (including class Valedictorian and Salutatorian) to its top graduates. What this means is that because of differing award criteria used by CNMI SAB and PSS, it is entirely possible for a student to receive one award and not the other.

- CNMI Scholarship Advisory Board (SAB)