## <u>THE SUN-GAZETTE</u>

## Exeter woman gets Self-Help Enterprises scholarship

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By: The Sun-Gazette

EXETER – An Exeter woman will pursue her master's degree thanks to a scholarship in honor of a woman dedicated to serving the community.

Mercedes Rosales of Exeter was awarded one of two, \$1,000 scholarships from Self-Help Enterprises, a community development organization whose mission is to work together with low-income families to build and sustain healthy homes and communities. Mercedes' family purchased a home in Exeter after participating in Self-Help Enterprises' (SHE) housing counseling and education program. She graduated with honors from Fresno State where she studied sociology. She plans to pursue her master's degree with the goal of becoming an academic advisor/school counselor.

The other \$1,000 recipient was Ignacio Gordillo Herrejon of Reedley. SHE also handed out four \$750 scholarships including Among the four \$750 scholarship recipients were: Carlos Munoz of Traver. Carlos' family is building their home in Traver. He will graduate from Kingsburg High School where he excelled in football and soccer. Carlos is planning to attend College of the Sequoias with the eventual goal of becoming a firefighter/emergency medical responder.

The scholarships are named after Doris "Do" Dooley Scholarship, former SHE Board member and dedicated friend of the organization. It was established to help the children of families who have participated in one of Self-Help Enterprises' programs to further their education. This



Mercedes Rosales of Exeter will use \$1,000 scholarship to pursue Master's degree.

competitive academic scholarship is available to students who plan to enroll full-time in a vocational or trade school, community college or four-year university. The students were selected by Self-Help Enterprises' board of directors based on academic merit and commitment to community service.

"Self-Help Enterprises is proud to award these scholarships to students in the communities we serve," said Tom Collishaw, CEO of Self-Help Enterprises. "We applaud their achievements and are honored to support the next generation of leaders in their pursuit of higher education."

The Doris "Do" Dooley Scholarship is possible because of the vision and generosity of many people including the Dooley family. Since 1997, Self-Help Enterprises has awarded 123 scholarships totaling \$98,750 to deserving students.