

Chino Hills High student gets big surprise in psychology class

Chino Hills High senior Naedum DomNwachukwu was surprised this morning (April 12) when several adults, including his principal, counselor, parents, and SCE officials entered his psychology classroom to present him with a \$40,000 scholarship from the energy company.

Naedum is one of the 30 high school seniors to be named a 2016 Edison Scholar out of the more than 900 students who applied.

Each year, the \$1.2 million Edison Scholars Program awards the \$40,000 scholarships, paid over four years, to high school seniors who want to become engineers – electrical, mechanical, civil, computer, industrial, computer sciences/information systems, environmental sciences – and plan to pursue studies in science, technology, engineering, or math, full time at a four-year college or university. Edison Scholars are also eligible to apply for summer internships at SCE after completing their second year of college.

“I was very astounded,” Naedum said. “I didn’t realize it was going to be this big of a celebration. I thought I would just get a letter in the mail if I won.”

Naedum, who has a 4.15 grade point average, wrote a scholarship essay that made SCE officials immediately realize he had to be one of the winners, said Larry Moench, an SCE official from the company’s Rosemead office. In the essay, Naedum describes how he wants to study biomedical engineering and eventually work in the field of neuroscience. He wrote that he hopes to use his education to help Nigeria prosper through medical and technological breakthroughs.

His parents, who migrated to the United States from Nigeria, are Chinaka and Nkechi DomNwachukwu of Chino Hills. His father Chinaka is a professor at Azusa Pacific University, and founder and pastor of Potter’s Wheel Assembly Church of Chino Hills, where Naedum volunteers as a junior sound engineer and musician. Naedum’s mother is associate pastor of the church.

Naedum is Brass Captain and Mellophone Section Leader in the Chino Hills High (CHHS) Marching Band, a Marching Band Open Series Champion. Naedum won Best Brass Musician and Best Visual Performer in the band. He is also a member of the school’s Concert Band and was voted Most Improved, and Best of Class two times.

An honors and Advanced Placement class student, he is a member of the CHHS Varsity Debate Team, National Honor Society, and a Life Member of the California Scholarship Federation. He is founder and president of CHHS’ Club Cinema, and has been a member of the Black Student Union and Christian Club.

CHHS officials said he was instrumental in rewriting “The Breakfast Club,” a popular movie in the ‘80s about students who bond while serving detention. The revised movie was filmed on campus and shown to the community, with proceeds going to a non-profit organization.

Naedum plans to attend Cornell University this fall.

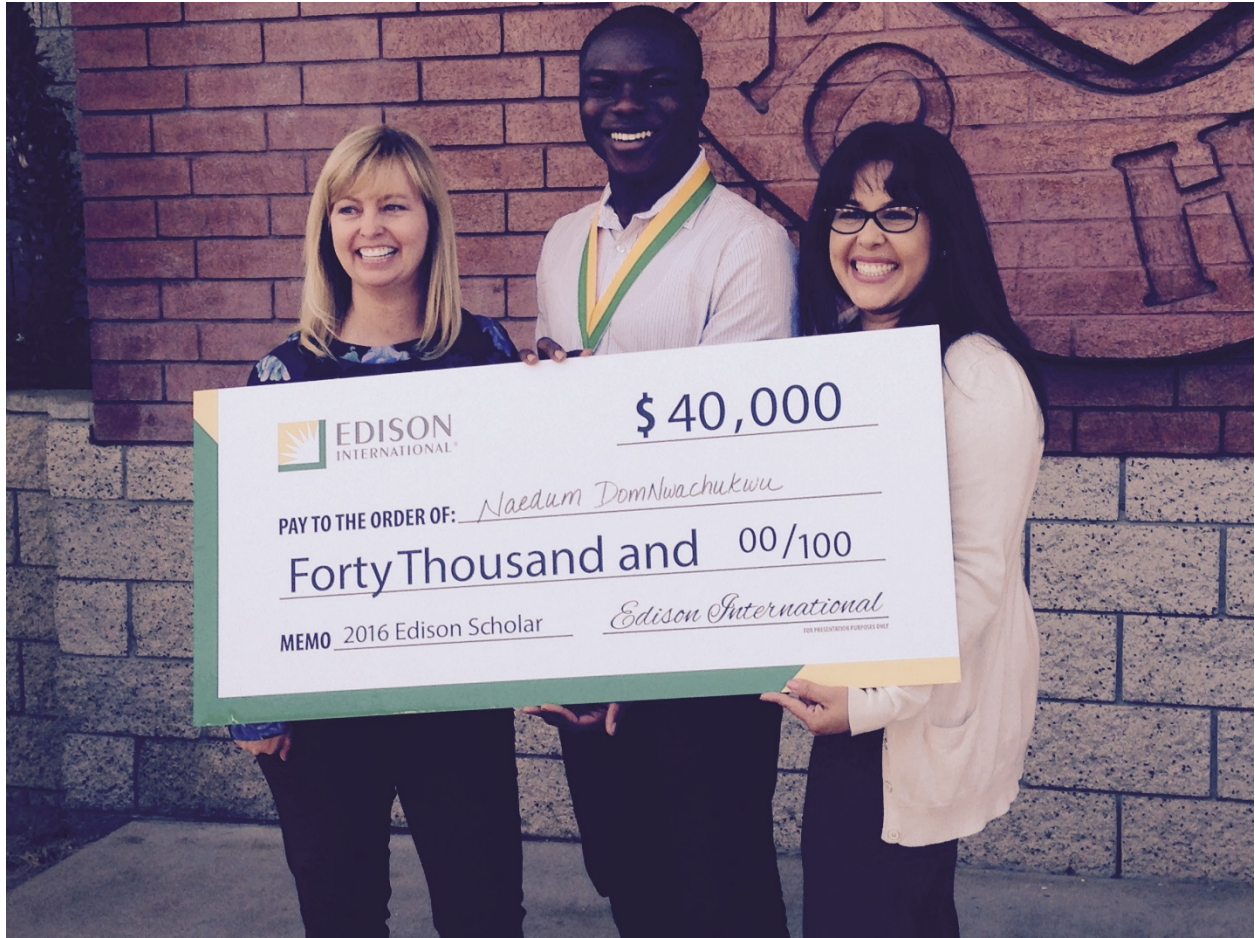
“I want to do something meaningful with the time I have,” Naedum said of his desire to help Nigeria. “If money is all I do and get in life, there’s no purpose...I feel like my faith requires that I do more than just invest in myself.”



Chino Hills High senior Naedum DomNwachukwu (second from left) is surprised in his psychology class with a check good for a \$40,000 college scholarship from Southern California Edison. Presenting the check are SCE officials Yolanda Hunter, Larry Moench, and Jim Anderson.



Naedum DomNwachukwu (center), his mother Nkechi, and father Chinaka.



Happy for Chino Hills High student Naedum DomNwachukwu (center) is his Counselor Kathie Spaun (left) and Principal Isabel Brenes.



Naedum DomNwachukwu shows off the medal he also won as an Edison Scholars winner.