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Local Dancer Receives Scholarship

Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley SCHOOL announced the first presentation of the Betts Cartwright Scholarship to 13-year old Brittany Coleman of San Jose. Ms. Coleman will study on full scholarship for one year at Professional Level 7 in the school's studios in downtown San Jose.

Ms. Coleman is the daughter of John and Karen Coleman. Her father is a retired respiratory therapist and her mother is a nurse. She has an 11-year old sister, Michelle. Ms. Coleman graduated last year from Castillero Middle School as an honor student with an overall grade point average of 3.97. She was the recipient of the President's Gold Medal, the Louis K. Towner Award, and the California Junior Scholarship Federation Award. She is currently enrolled at Santa Teresa High as a freshman taking an all-honors curriculum of primarily sophomore and junior classes. Ms. Coleman hopes to attend Harvard.

Brittany Coleman has been studying dance for ten years. She spent the last six years studying at Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley SCHOOL and is determined to make her career in dance. In addition to her regular school studies, she takes between 16 and 20 hours of dance classes each week.

Ms. Coleman has also participated in a number of the professional productions of Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley. She has appeared in several roles in Dennis Nahat's *The Nutcracker*, performed as a 'sprite' in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and is slated to dance in two scenes in the American premiere of Flemming Flindt's new ballet, *RED SHOES or Legs of Fire* (October 18-21 at San Jose Center for the Performing Arts.)

The Betts Cartwright Scholarship is named in memory of the former president of the Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley Council (the Ballet's volunteer auxiliary) and is supported by an endowment fund set up in her honor. Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley SCHOOL has an active financial aid program supplemented by free outreach classes designed to make ballet training more accessible to the community. Both are funded in part by donations earmarked for that purpose.

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For additional information about Brittany Coleman please contact parents John and Karen Coleman at (408) 578-0896. For information about Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley SCHOOL contact School Director Donna Delseni (408) 288-2820 x 215. For information about *RED SHOES* or *The Nutcracker* contact publicist Lee Kopp at (408) 288-2820 x 210