

Soroptimist recognize STHS seniors for their achievements

By Kathryn Reed

STATELINE – Grades are important, but what makes these four young women stand out among their peers is the complete package.

“These extraordinary young women truly deserve this recognition,” South Tahoe High Principal Ivone Larson said. Larson was speaking about Sandra Zepeda, Catherine Kushner, Rachel Kaufer and Alexis Holmes.

On Wednesday, the four seniors were honored by Soroptimist International of South Lake Tahoe as Young Women of Distinction.



Sandra Zepeda,
l-r, Catherine
Kushner,
Rachel Kaufer,
Alexis Holmes

The lunch at Harrah's Tahoe brought out a throng of representatives from the high school as well as relatives of the honorees. Larson introduced each of the girls, highlighting their academic careers and what the future may

hold for them.

Zepeda credits her mother for teaching her important life lessons. She credits her father for teaching her that accomplishing her dreams should be at the top of her list.

“Photography is not just her passion, it’s her calling,” Larson said. “It’s her dream to be the people’s photographer.”

Zepeda also has an interest in becoming a pastry chef.

Larson spoke of Kushner’s 4.29gpa. She rattled off a slew of music related accomplishments that Kushner has achieved. Kushner is also the senior class president and in the S Club.

“I know when I graduate I want to join a group like this and make a difference in the world,” Kushner said upon receiving her award.

Going to South Africa was a life-changing trip for Kaufer, Larson told the group. It was from that experience that Kaufer decided to pursue a career in journalism. Her goal is to cover political and environmental issues.

Kaufer thanked her family, saying, “Without their constant encouragement, I wouldn’t be where I am.”

Holmes has followed in her family’s footsteps when it comes to athletic achievements. She has lettered 12 times – the most she could.

She wants to write screenplays for Hollywood, be a professional golfer and live in Lake Tahoe.

“You are a legend in your own time,” Larson said of Holmes.