



Elisabeth Lewandowski

(photo by Melinda Finn)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Student Selected to Attend Global Innovation Forum on Clean Technology at UCLA

SAN MARCOS (March 26, 2009) – Palomar College student and Escondido resident Elisabeth Lewandowski was one of 100 students nationwide selected to participate in a Clean Technology Innovation Forum sponsored by Athgo International. The conference was held at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) from March 4-7, 2009.

According to the organization's website, Athgo's 6th annual Global Forum was designed "to encourage young people to get engaged in, develop, and propose new sustainability and renewable energy initiatives in creative and cordial environment." The event brought students together with an international community of government representatives, scientists, diplomats, experts and corporate executives who gave presentations and participated in panel discussions. The students were asked to devise "individual innovative solutions to address global environmental and alternative energy challenges."

A member of Palomar's honor society Phi Theta Kappa, Lewandowski was encouraged by her Palomar political science professor, Mary Ann Drinan to apply for a scholarship to attend the Athgo Forum. Drinan also helped her get a political science internship with Congressman Darrell Issa last year.

One of Lewandowski's goals is to work in the area of biofuels – specifically helping those in underdeveloped countries achieve a level of sustainability through such methods as using cows as a source of food (milk products) and fuel (manure converted into energy). Last year, as part of a Phi Theta Kappa project, Lewandowski traveled to Sri Lanka to teach at the Bridge2 Peace school. As a result of her experience at the Athgo Forum earlier this month, she is now applying for grant money to bring a cow to the school in Sri Lanka, and thus help those at the school to become more energy independent.

(more)

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“It’s possible to make a difference with the children,” Lewandowski said, acknowledging that change happens in small steps. She said that she was inspired at the Athgo Forum hearing the expert speakers who were “actively making a difference for clean technology.” The experts in turn were inspired by the motivation of the young people, she reported, to come up with ways of helping the world move in a “greener” direction. “As a group, we can make something happen,” she said.

Lewandowski holds an associate in arts degree from Palomar in science and mathematics. She also has two bachelor’s degrees from Central College in Pella, Iowa, in international studies and Spanish.

With a variety of interests, talents and experience, from aeronautics to nursing to playing women’s professional football, Lewandowski has already established herself as someone who is willing to work hard and blaze new trails. She plans to graduate from Palomar in May, adding two more degrees - in social/behavioral sciences, and arts and humanities - to those she has already earned. She will then transfer to a four-year university to study nursing. Her career objective is to become part of the Aeromedical Air National Guard or a Military Registered Nurse.

Established in 1999, Athgo is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) non-governmental organization based in Los Angeles, California, that engages young people in social entrepreneurship to promote environmental sustainability and economic development. For more information about Athgo and a complete listing of the panels and participants of the Global Innovation Forum, please visit, www.athgo.org.

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Contacts:

Melinda Finn, (760) 744-1150, ext. 2365, mfinn@palomar.edu

Mary Ann Drinan, (760) 744-1150, ext. 2755, mdrinan@palomar.edu

Athgo International, (818) 345-6734, ext. 1020, media@athgo.org