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## **Inspirational leader scoops annual scholarship award**

Following a very difficult judging process, Cameron Calkoen who has developed the Carabiner Mentor Programme for the YES Disability Resource Centre won the \$10,000 AMP Rothbury Risk & Investment Auckland regional scholarship for 2011.

Cameron's Carabiner Mentor Programme specialises in helping young people with disabilities achieve their life goals by acting as a Carabiner between them and approved adult mentors who work in their area of interest. The funding received from his AMP Scholarship will help take this programme to the world and help create a place where everyone has equal opportunities.

Finalists Dasha Nelidova, Marlena Devoe and Matthew O'Connor also received a contribution to help them achieve their dreams in their chosen field.

Twenty five year old Dasha was a finalist in the young scientist of the year competition, due to her remarkable work in medicine. At the moment she is studying towards her PHD in Neuroscience, and is planning to use her AMP scholarship to study at the Roska laboratory at the Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research in Switzerland.

Marlena Devoe is one of New Zealand's rising opera singing stars. Her AMP Scholarship will help fund her study at the prestigious Manhattan School of Music in New York.

Nine year old Matthew Connor is working towards his dream of representing New Zealand in the Olympics for Shaolin Kenpo Martial Arts. He already has an impressive track record in Kenpo, and is the youngest person to achieve black belt in Kenpo martial arts. Matthew is using his AMP Scholarship towards going to train in America with renowned Marital Arts expert Jeff Speakman.

### **For more details please contact:**

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