Granada Hills Charter senior earns full athletic scholarship to University of Pittsburgh

Nationally competitive Junior Olympic gymnast credits iGranada’s blended program for giving her the flexibility to pursue her athletic goals

January 25, 2018 – Granada Hills Charter senior Katie Chamberlain in the iGranada program has earned a full athletic scholarship to the University of Pittsburgh where she will be part of the school’s gymnastics team and plans to major in Psychology.

“Aside from Nationals, accepting my scholarship was definitely one of the biggest highlights of my gymnastics career,” the 17-year-old said. “The moment I signed my name on that piece of paper was the moment I realized that all the time I’d dedicated to this sport, every ounce of effort I’d put in, all the pain and hardships I’d suffered through, and all the blood, sweat, and tears that were shed were worth it.”

For the past 10 years, Katie has been training at the Junior Olympic level – the past five at the highest Junior Olympic level. She competed in the Junior Olympics National competition in both 2015 and 2017, finishing seventh in the all-around competition in 2017. She started practicing gymnastics as a 3-year-old in a “mommy and me” class.

Given her training schedule and regular travel to competitions, a traditional high school environment did not provide Katie with the academic support and flexibility she needed. That is where the iGranada program stepped in. iGranada provides a small-school, college-prep experience within a flexible instructional format. Students can access their personalized curriculum through online courses from

Katie competing in the Women’s Junior Olympic National Championships in Indianapolis, IN on May 6, 2017.
anywhere while resources at the school site blend the "traditional" feel of the high school experience. Students have the opportunity to attend structured daily workshops that enhance and support their online work and provide students with face-to-face time with iGranada advisors. Students also have access to Advanced Placement, fine arts and physical education classes.

“Balancing getting good grades throughout four years of high school and maintaining a rigorous 25-hour per week training schedule along with competitions is extremely difficult, but the flexibility of the iGranada program has made that task much easier for me, as well as other athletes,” said Katie, who carries a 3.96 GPA and names science and math as her favorite subjects. “When I'm out of town for competitions, I can work on my courses and turn in assignments in the midst of traveling. Also, the ability to leave school early has made it possible for me to put in the amount of training hours necessary to successfully keep up my gymnastics and achieve my goals.”

Katie particularly points to iGranada advisor Oswaldo Rivera’s help during her time at iGranada. Rivera, who advises biology and math, is “always willing to help me with any math that I don’t understand or need help on,” she said.

“Easily one of the most talented students that doesn’t realize how talented she truly is,” says Rivera. “Her raw talent and drive will bring out the best in Katie as she transitions to college. We are so proud of her and know she will reach new heights in this next stage of life.”

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**About Granada Hills Charter High School:** Granada Hills Charter High School, the largest charter school in the nation, is an independent public school in the San Fernando Valley. A fiscally independent conversion charter school, Granada Hills Charter has a current student enrollment of approximately 4,750 and an annual student wait list of over 2,000. The School’s student body is considered one of the most diverse, with more than 40 languages other than English spoken at home and over 60 nationalities represented. Over 2,400 students are eligible for the National School Breakfast and Lunch Program. As a 501c3 non-profit benefit corporation, the School’s Governing Board is the legal entity overseeing all school policy and its $55 million operating budget. The school is ranked “#1 Best Charter High School in California,” “#2 Most Diverse Public High School in Los Angeles” and “#6 Best Charter High Schools in America” by Niche.com in the 2018 Best Schools rankings.