Recent Newington Certificate Program for Prosthetics Graduate Receives Inaugural Brandon Barth Memorial Scholarship

July 22, 2011

Newington, Conn., July 22, 2011 – On Friday, May 13th, Colombian student Miguel Angel Gutierrez graduated from Hanger's Newington Certificate Program for Prosthetics. As part of a humanitarian effort by Sikorsky Aircraft Corp. and Hanger Orthopedic Group, Inc. to help the people of Colombia, Gutierrez completed an intensive nine-month course and internship which prepared him as a qualified clinician trained in patient assessment, prosthetics fitting, and socket / limb fabrication. Upon graduation Gutierrez was also awarded the inaugural Brandon Barth Memorial Scholarship which will enable Gutierrez to further his education in the field of orthotics through Newington's Distance Learning Program for Orthotics.

"On Saturday, April 9, 2011, the orthotic and prosthetic industry and the Hanger family lost a tremendous young talent and wonderful human being," said Bob Lin, CPO, FAAOP, Hanger Prosthetics and Orthotics National Residency Director and Newington Certificate Program Director. "Brandon Barth, a gifted resident in our Southwest market passed away suddenly from a brain aneurysm. He will be profoundly missed by all of those whose lives he touched in his short, but noteworthy orthotic and prosthetic career."

In an effort to honor Barth's memory, Hanger Prosthetics and Orthotics established the Brandon Barth Memorial Scholarship which will be awarded annually to an aspiring prosthetic or orthotic student with plans to apply to the Newington Distance Learning Program.

"This award will be given to a student who exhibits the qualities of humanity, dedication, and academic excellence, and Miguel was a perfect candidate to be the first recipient of this most significant scholarship award," explained Lin. "We congratulate Miguel for his accomplishments."

The Newington training program Gutierrez participated in is the result of a partnership between Hanger Orthopedic Group, Inc. (NYSE:HGR) and Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation, a subsidiary of United Technologies Corp. (NYSE:UTX) to improve the provision of prosthetic care to amputees in Colombia. Due to decades of conflict, Colombia has experienced a large number of landmine victims, and with more than 7,700 landmine survivors registered since 2002, the need for accessible prosthetic care is high. The collaboration includes two initiatives – the clinical education and training of Colombians interested in becoming prosthetists and technicians, and the implementation of a comprehensive in-country clinic to help alleviate the backlog of amputees needing prosthetic intervention. For more information, visit http://bit.ly/HangerSikorskyPartnership. New students from Colombia are expected to begin the same program in August 2011.

After graduation Gutierrez returned home to Colombia to care for amputees at the Central Military Hospital Prosthetics Laboratory.

About Sikorsky – Sikorsky Aircraft Corp., based in Stratford, Conn., is a world leader in helicopter design, manufacture and service. United Technologies Corp., based in Hartford, Conn., provides a broad range of high technology products and support services to the aerospace and building systems industries worldwide.

About Hanger – With 680+ patient care centers in 45 states and the District of Columbia, Hanger Orthopedic Group is the world's premier provider of orthotic and prosthetic (O&P) patient care. By enhancing human physical capabilities, Hanger helps those with limb loss, paralysis, and debilitating orthopedic anomalies become productive members of society after a devastating injury or illness. The goal of Hanger's patient care division is providing personal independence, increased mobility and restored functionality. Additionally, Hanger has businesses in distribution, network management, therapeutic solutions, and device development and commercialization. For more information, visit www.hanger.com.

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