

Golden Apple Foundation

NEWS RELEASE

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100 students named Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois

(CHICAGO — March 24, 2009) The Golden Apple Foundation today named 100 outstanding Illinois high school and college students as Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois, which is the largest pre-service teacher-support program in the nation.

Through a rigorous application and interview process, the Scholars program annually identifies, recruits and prepares bright and talented students, who represent a rich ethnic diversity, for successful teaching careers in schools of need throughout Illinois.

In exchange for financial assistance for four years to attend one of 53 public and private universities across the state, enrollment in summer programs that include teaching internships and enhanced teacher preparation, and continual mentoring by Golden Apple Award-winning teachers, Scholars must agree to teach for five years in an Illinois school of need, which is a school that serves low-income students or has below-par test scores. There are now more than 1,100 Golden Apple Scholars teaching or on their way to teaching in schools of need throughout Illinois.

The Scholars will be inducted at DePaul University Student Center, 2250 N. Sheffield Ave, in Chicago on Saturday, May 2. Reception is at 3:30 p.m. followed by the induction at 5 p.m.

The 100 Scholars include 39 from Chicago, 33 from Chicago suburbs, and 28 from downstate Illinois. The Scholars are 47 percent low income and 55 percent minority.

A list of the 2009 Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois, arranged by city, follows:

2009 Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois

Addison: Ilma Gjini, **Addison Trail HS**

Alta Pass: Hilary Sirles, **Cobden HS**

Bloomington: Miranda Buob, **Bloomington HS**

Bourbonnais: Nolan Grace, **Bradley Bourbonnais HS**

Bridgeview: Peter Buys, **Oak Lawn Comm HS**

Buffalo Grove: Eliana Goldsmith, **Stevenson HS**

Burbank: Valerie Oakey, **Reavis HS**

Catlin: Taylor Page, **Catlin HS**

Carpentersville: Ryan Ehmen, **Barrington HS**

Chicago (alphabetical by school):

- James Richard-Truesdale, **Amundsen HS**; Dawnesha Freeman and Juan Rodriguez, **Brooks College Prep**; Stacy Coglianese, **Chicago HS for Agricultural Sciences**; Lieni Margil, **Clemente HS**; Angelica Alcaraz, Sandra Rodriguez and Carlos Romero, **Curie HS**; Phillip Bowen and Jaime Cruz, **De LaSalle HS**; Paulina Mosqueda, **DePaul University**; Rachel Jackson, **DeVry Advantage HS**; Jennifer Sichory, **Hubbard HS**; Katelin Johnson, **Illinois State University**; Margaret Byrne, **Illinois Wesleyan University**; Anel Martinez, **Infinity HS**; Colbi Fair, **King HS**; Henry Gomez, Victoria Holtz and Anna Treesara, **Lane HS**; Lilliana Saenz, **Lincoln Park HS**; Rocio Del Real and Adam Jimenez, **Lindblom HS**; Genevieve Roland, **Maria HS**; Fannetta Jones, **Monmouth College**; Gabriela Aguirre, **National-Louis University**; Louvina Davis, **North Lawndale College Prep**; Leah Battag, **Northwestern University**; Brenda Conner, **Phoenix Military Academy**; Samantha Grubisich, **Queen of Peace HS**; Andrea Lewis, **School of Technology**; Fanny Garcia, **Social Justice HS**; Diane Ortega and Jonathan Braun, **St. Ignatius HS**; Taylor Cheathan and Anthony Serpico, **St. Laurence HS**; Jesus Raya Custodio, **University of Illinois at Chicago**; Alicia Carlisle, **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**; Lindsey McIntosh, **Whitney Young HS**

Cicero: Meliza Rodriguez, **Morton East HS** and Eric Melendez, **Morton West HS**

Countryside: Patricia Razo, **Lyons Twp HS**

Crest Hill: Emily Contreras, **Lockport Twp HS**

Danville: Kelsey Thurman, **Danville HS**

Davis Junction: Rebecca Johnson, **Stillman Valley HS**

Des Plaines: Kelsey Hargesheimer, **Maine West HS**

Donovan: Taylor Larson, **Donovan HS**

East St. Louis: Marcella Earl, **East St. Louis HS**

Evanston: Raquel Levy, **Evanston Twp HS**

Flossmoor: Malika Jackson, **Homewood Flossmoor HS**

Galesburg: Kathleen Riner and Kevin Moore, **Galesburg HS**

Glenview: Marison Del Rio, **Glenbrook South HS**, and Martha Haro Cornejo, **Glenview South HS**

Justice: Theresa Yerkes, **Queen of Peace HS**

Lansing: Kevin Farrell, **Thornton Fractional South HS**

Lebanon: Wilson Neill, **Lebanon HS**

Mattoon: Jeana Wamsley, **Mattoon HS**

Melrose Park: Heidi Diaz, **West Leyden HS**
Midlothian: Joseph Hruban, **Bremen HS**
Millstadt: Brett Fullmer, **Althoff Catholic HS**
Naperville: Carley Jungnickel, **Naperville Central HS**; Maxwell Balsano, **Naperville North HS**; and Leslie Edwards, **Neuqua Valley HS**
Oak Forest: Alan Walnoha, **Oak Forest HS**
Oak Park: Megan White, **Oak Park River Forest HS**, and Jasmine Floyd, **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**
Oakland: Jodie Latham, **Oakland HS**
Park Ridge: Lauren Vidal, **Maine South HS**
Pekin: Damon Ehrett, Sarah Gouliard and Laura Price, **Pekin Comm HS**
Pomona: Elsa Tippy, **Murphysboro HS**
Rockford: Ryan Knodle, **Boylan Catholic HS**
Rock Island: Cordale Thornton, **Illinois State University**
Round Lake Beach: Jose Vega, **Round Lake Sr HS**
S. Elgin: Jennifer Medrano, **Elgin HS**
Sauk Village: Tiffany Ryan, **Bloom Trail HS**
Saybrook: Olivia Atherton, **Ridgeview HS**
Skokie: Alexis Matesi and Sarah Paulis, **Niles North HS**
Springfield: Anastassia Anderson, **Lamphier HS** and Karianna Stephens, **Pleasant Plains HS**
St. Charles: Gregory Ballweg, **St. Charles East HS**
Staunton: Marie Hindi, **Staunton HS** and Matthew Lesko, **Southern Illinois University Edwardsville**
Tampico: Tobi Drilling, **Prophetstown HS**
Tuscola: Melissa Stenger, **Tuscola HS**
Valparaiso: Ryan Prondzinski, **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**
Viola: Kyle Kimball, **Sherrard HS**
Woodridge: Alison Jacob, **Illinois State University**