

Lombard Spectator

Future teacher named Golden Apple Scholar



In her Senior Composition class, Glenbard East's Keisha Hoyo works on interview questions on Wednesday, March 19, 2008, which will be used when interviewing a senior citizen. Keisha has been accepted in a 4-year teaching scholarship program. After college graduation, she will work in a needy school district. Keisha (right) talks with classmate, Elena Beltrane (standing).

By Sarah Meisch, smeisch@mysuburbanlife.com
Lombard Spectator
Thu Mar 20, 2008, 03:52 PM CDT

Lombard, IL -

Keisha Hoyo has wanted to be a teacher for as long as she can remember. As a child, she loved playing school.

"I liked to be the mean teacher and give out lots of homework," the 16-year-old said.

Whether the senior at Glenbard East High School in Lombard will be a “mean” teacher in real life remains to be seen, but Keisha is well on her way to realizing her childhood dream of teaching.

Earlier this month, she was named a Golden Apple Scholar, one of 100 students statewide to be selected for the Illinois teaching program.

“It’s tuition assistance,” she explained.

She’ll also participate in a summer institute at DePaul University in Chicago, which will provide her with a \$2,000 stipend for each summer she participates and advanced teacher preparation.

In exchange, Keisha must earn a bachelor’s degree from one of 53 Illinois universities that participate in the program, obtain Illinois teacher certification and teach for five years in an Illinois school of need. Golden Apple Scholars must also meet grade-point average requirements and comply with a code of conduct while in the program.

She’ll be attending Illinois State University in the fall, but plans to transfer to the University of Illinois at Chicago during her sophomore year.

While she’s happy to be getting help with tuition expenses, Keisha seems most excited about teaching in a needy school district.

“I want to help children so they can get a better education,” she said. “That was what I wanted to do anyway. That’s why (the program) stood out.”

She’s already picked out the two public school districts she’d like to work in — either Chicago or Chicago Heights. She grew up in Chicago and is in her first year at Glenbard East.

“It was a big change, a humongous change,” she said. “It was a change in academics. ... They make you feel at home here. It’s been a great year — I wish I had gone here for four years.”

As a 16-year-old senior, she said she often gets asked questions about her age, but she has a simple explanation.

“I went directly from first to third grade,” she said.

Her father, Rolando Hoye, is proud of her.

“I think it’s pretty great,” he said.