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10 from Southland are Golden Apple Scholars

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BY STEVE METSCH

Ten Southland residents are among the 100 high school seniors who have been named 2010 Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois.

The organization announced the grant winners Tuesday.

Five adults returning to college to become teachers also are receiving grants, director Jim Sorensen said.

Students will receive \$2,500 each for their freshman and sophomore tuition in college and \$5,000 each for their junior and senior years, Sorensen said.

In exchange, they agree to teach for five years in impoverished school districts, he said.

Through the years, 80 percent of recipients have gone on to become teachers, he said. They must attend colleges or universities in Illinois, he said.

Here are the recipients from the Southland:

- Stephanie Calderon, Reavis High School in Burbank
- Lauren Gryczewski, Shepard High School in Palos Heights
- Paige Lloyd, Heritage Christian School in Olympia Fields
- Shavon Mathus, Morgan Park High School in Chicago
- Nora Nagle, Bremen High School in Midlothian.
- Sofia Ramos, Mother McAuley High School in Chicago
- Sara Seweryn, Queen of Peace High School in Burbank
- Sierra Sims, Seton Academy in South Holland
- Javon Smith, Thornton Township High School in Harvey
- Timothy Strong, Rich Central High School in Olympia Fields.

The winners were selected from 2,125 nominated students, Sorensen said. Of those, 528 students completed the written applications.

"It's an amazing group of young people," Sorensen said.

Recipients will attend summer school sessions taught by Golden Apple Teachers at DePaul University's Lincoln Park campus, Sorensen said.

They each receive a \$2,000 stipend in the summer, Sorensen said.