

Golden Apple Foundation

NEWS RELEASE

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101 students named Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois

(CHICAGO — March 27, 2007) The Golden Apple Foundation today named 101 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 100 bright and talented students, who represent a rich ethnic diversity, for successful teaching careers in schools of need throughout Illinois.

An additional Scholar was chosen this year to honor the memory of 1998 Scholar Tanisha Thurmond, a teacher at Julian High School, who died Feb. 26 at the age of 27.

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 that serves low-income students or has below-par test scores. There are now 1,026 Golden Apple Scholars teaching or on their way to teaching in challenging schools throughout Illinois.

The Scholars will be inducted at The Field Museum, 1400 S. Lake Shore Dr., in Chicago on Saturday, March 31. Reception is at 6 p.m. followed by the induction at 7 p.m. in the James Simpson Theater.

The 101 Scholars include 30 from Chicago, 46 from Chicago suburbs, and 25 from downstate Illinois. The Scholars are 55 percent low income and 56 percent minority.

A list of the 2007 Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois, arranged by city, follows:

2007 Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois

Berwyn: Pedro Peralta and Viviana Rivera, Morton West HS

Bloomington: Crystal Penn, Illinois Wesleyan University

Buffalo Grove: Michelle Zlatkin, Buffalo Grove HS

Cahokia: Jennifer Joniak, Cahokia HS

Carol Stream: Nicolette Augustyn and Rida Siddiqui, Glenbard North HS

Champaign: Vernetta Wright, Centennial HS

Chicago (alphabetical by school):

- Mercedes Smith, **Austin Community HS**; Marina Barboza and Jesus Serrano, **Big Picture HS-Back of the Yards**; Janese Nolan, **Chicago Military Academy-Bronzeville**; Kiara Henderson, **Corliss HS**; Scarlett Mays, **Curie HS**; Bryan Riddle, **Fenger HS**; Amanda Zornow, **Governors State University**; Amy Lucas, **Guerin College Prep**; Kenyatta Johnson, **Harlan HS**; Delisa Edwards, **Harper HS**; Joshua McClendon, **Julian HS**; Cynthia Pulido, **Kelly HS**; Jordan Lanfair, **Kenwood Academy**; Alaina Parks and Linda Ramos, **Lake View HS**; Cynthia Watson, **Lane Tech HS**; Melissa Nemeth, **Loyola University**; Dawn Reed-Brooks, **Mather HS**; Jennifer Dennis, **Morgan Park HS**; Gresshen Nunez and America Topete, **Noble Street Charter HS**; Ernesto Garza, **Northside College Prep HS**; Jocelyn Casper, **Notre Dame HS for Girls**; Jerry Crockrell, **Phoenix Military Academy**; Rafael Jimenez, **St. Francis de Sales HS**; Liliana Tinoco, **University of Illinois-Chicago**; Mariah Madson, **VanderCook College of Music**; Mariana Howard-Paez, Kathryn Manansala and Aquilla Mikel, **Whitney Young HS**;

Chicago Heights: Tia Wilson, Bloom Trail HS

Cobden: Sharon Espina and Priciliano Fabian, Cobden HS

Darien: Alexander Sonka, Hinsdale South HS

East St. Louis: Roderika Ballard, Stefani Pittman and Reginald Wince, East St. Louis Sr. HS

Edwardsville: Ronald Madlock Jr., Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville

Effingham: Hannah Evrard, Effingham HS

Elk Grove Village: Lisa Freidenfelds, Elk Grove HS

Eureka: Jacquelyn McCauley, Eureka College

Flossmoor: Amanda Bendle and Lorryn Neely, Homewood-Flossmoor HS

Franklin Park: Kathleen Rose, East Leyden HS

Harvey: Chardnay Heard and Derrick Long, Thornton Twp HS

Hinsdale: Jessica Acovelli, Hinsdale Central HS

Hoffman Estates: Faith Harris, Conant HS; James DeSalvo and Namita Shah, Hoffman Estates HS

Jacksonville: Andrea Kelsey and Jared McDaniel, Illinois College

LaGrange: Maura Raleigh, Lyons Twp HS

Lansing: Doug Schlessler and Dionte Washington, Thornton Fractional South HS

Lemont: Kelly Kardas, Sara Michaelsen and Lauren Moravecek, Lemont HS

Marion: Alexa Chamberlin, Marion HS

McHenry: Kimberly Karnatz, Marion HS

Morton: Emily Karnes, Morton HS

Naperville: Christina Betz, Neuqua Valley HS

New Lenox: Jacob Welke, Lincoln-Way Central HS
Normal: Dominique Collins, Michael Eckwell and Aprilanne Lynch, Illinois State University
O'Fallon: Lindsey Fore, O'Fallon Twp HS
Palatine: Kathryn Brannon, Fremd HS; Megan Betti, Akta Desai, Leslie Gonzalez, Sarah Kluk and Kevin Winters, Palatine HS
Peotone: Kristen Kotesa, Peotone HS
River Forest: Amy Lucas, Dominican University; Tishara Murphy, Trinity HS
River Grove: Monique Hickman, Triton College
Riverside: Kimberly Heilenbach, Riverside-Brookfield HS
Rock Island: Tiffany Johnson, Meghan Miers and Brandon Thornton, Rock Island HS
Schaumburg: Carmela Balice and Eva Lawrence, Schaumburg HS
Skokie: Mehreen Iqbal, Niles North HS
South Holland: Monique Carthans, Thornwood HS
Sterling: Katie Searing, Sterling HS
Summit: Sylvia Moran, Argo Community HS
Tinley Park: Rachel Perveiler, Andrew HS; Katelyn Raddatz, Tinley Park HS
Urbana: Christine Rinkenberger and Taneya Tuell, Urbana HS
Winnetka: Kristy Wettersten, New Trier HS
Woodstock: Chelsey Stack, Woodstock HS