



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

105 Illinois students named 2010 Golden Apple Scholars

CHICAGO (March 30, 2010) – Golden Apple is proud to announce the selection of the 2010 Golden Apple Scholars, a group of 105 promising young people who have demonstrated passion and dedication to pursuing a career in education. (The complete list of Golden Apple Scholars can be found at the end of this release.)

Since 1989 the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois program has grown to over 1,200 statewide participants, making it one of the largest pre-service teacher internship and preparation programs in the nation. The Scholars program is designed to address the urgent need for resilient and creative teachers serving Illinois students in economically and educationally disadvantaged schools.

Scholars are selected during either their junior year of high school or their sophomore year in college. The program offers support while they pursue an undergraduate education at one of 53 Illinois universities, provides financial assistance for college, and strengthens their teacher preparation. At the heart of the program are four Summer Institutes that provide Scholars with extensive pre-student-teaching internships, mentoring and course work on the art of teaching by Golden Apple Award-winning teachers. By the time Scholars finish the program and enter classrooms as teachers, they have acquired more than three times the classroom experiences than traditionally prepared teachers. Golden Apple continues the support of its Scholars after they begin their careers. Scholars are visited and mentored in their first year of teaching, and participate in the annual CORE (Center for Ongoing Renewal and Enrichment) conference for teaching Scholars and their colleagues.

In return for the extensive professional, personal and financial support they receive, Scholars agree to teach for five years in an Illinois school of need identified by having a significant student population from low-income households, or by mediocre to poor performance on state tests.

“Recent studies have confirmed the effectiveness of the Scholars program,” Dominic Belmonte, Golden Apple president and CEO explained. “In a survey of principals with one or more Scholars teaching in their schools, more than three-quarters of respondents rated the Golden Apple Scholars as more effective than their traditionally prepared peers across a wide array of teaching characteristics, including preparation, lesson planning, professionalism, and fostering a positive learning environment.”

This year’s group of Scholars represents a diverse group of young people from across the state of Illinois, chosen from 2,125 nominated students through a rigorous selection process, which includes a written application, completed by 528 of the nominated students, and interviews with Golden Apple

The 2010 class of Scholars also includes five students participating in the new Early Childhood Education Scholars program, which combines the existing programs at Kohl Children's Museum of Greater Chicago, National-Louis University and the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois program in a combined effort to increase the number of qualified early childhood education teachers in Illinois schools.

Of the 105 students selected as 2010 class of Golden Apple Scholars:

- 45 percent are from the first generation of their family to attend college
- 33 percent come from low-income families
- 19 are male and 86 are female
- 46 percent are Caucasian, 30 percent are Latino, 18 percent are African-American, 4 percent are Asian/Pacific Islander and 2 percent are Multi-Racial

Studies show that there is a shortage of qualified, enthusiastic teachers entering the profession, and a particular shortage of minority and bilingual teachers.

"Students need teachers who have similar backgrounds and experiences to serve as role models and give them the hope of a promising future. Through the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois, we identify talented future educators and help them achieve their dreams of teaching," said Jim Sorensen, director of the Golden Apple Scholars program. "We prepare them for immediate and lasting success in some of the most challenging teaching environments."

Golden Apple Scholars gain essential early exposure to the challenges and triumphs of teaching in a high-needs setting and build invaluable networks of support that continue into their teaching years. Now in its 22nd year, the Scholars program now has prepared and presented over 700 Scholars to teach in Illinois, with 93 percent of Scholars remaining in classrooms at disadvantaged schools beyond the five-year commitment required by the program.

About Golden Apple

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, Golden Apple began with founders Mike and Pat Koldyke and a shared inspiration — to offer outstanding schoolteachers a level of recognition and engagement in the larger work of education reform. Golden Apple's successful track record of integrated, innovative programs and resources enhance the quality, resiliency, and creativity of classroom teachers and improve teaching and learning throughout Illinois. Qualified, passionate educators — including Golden Apple Award-winners and finalists — lead a small staff of dedicated employees with functional and program expertise. A connected and committed board of directors oversees Golden Apple's strategic direction. Together with a larger community of expert educators, this nonprofit organization works to ensure that all Illinois children have the excellent teachers they deserve.

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For more information contact:

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Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois
Class of 2010

Jaqueline Alba
South Elgin HS, South Elgin

Willy Aquino
Curie HS, Chicago

Rhianna Arreguin
Zion Benton HS, Beach Park

Luis Barrera
Concordia University,
Brookfield

Lezlie Bauler
Eisenhower HS, Decatur

Amelia Beveroth
Sterling HS, Sterling

Daniel Bixler
Saint Charles East HS, Saint
Charles

Donna Black
National-Louis University,
Maywood

Katherine Bledsoe
Litchfield HS, Litchfield

Karina Bolivar
West Leyden HS, Melrose Pk.

Allyssa Brown
Athens HS, Athens

Taylor Bryant
Murphysboro HS,
Murphysboro

Gabrielle Budzon
West Leyden HS, Northlake

Darlene Bueno
Juarez HS, Cicero

Jordan Buob
Bradley University,
Bloomington

Requita Byrd
Dunbar HS, Chicago

Stephanie Calderon
Reavis HS, Chicago

Krystal Cheung
University of Illinois at
Springfield, Springfield

Antonio Contreras
Larkin HS, Elgin

Edith Cote
Lane Tech HS, Chicago

Natalie Cuevas
DePaul University, Chicago

Tyler Cunningham
Metamora HS, Metamora

Tara Davis
New Berlin HS, Loami

Emmanuel Del Rio
Palatine HS, Palatine

Evgenia Dimas
Lane Tech HS, Chicago

Kristen Foltyniewicz
National-Louis University,
Crystal Lake

Kevin Glabowicz
Waukegan HS, Waukegan

Ariel Gonzalez
Trinity HS, Chicago

Brizeida Gonzalez
Rosary HS, Plano

Lauren Gryczewski
Shepard HS, Alsip

Tiffany Guel-Blanco
Riverside Brookfield HS,
Brookfield

Victoria Haddad
Columbia College Chicago,
Chicago

Hannah Harris
Carterville HS, Carterville

Kaleigh Hill
East Peoria Comm HS, East
Peoria

Brianna Hobbs
United Township HS, East
Moline

Erica Horne
Chicago Military Academy,
Chicago

Kimberley Howard
Palatine HS, Palatine

Maia Jackson
Roosevelt University, Chicago

Matthew Jodino
Christopher HS, Christopher

Davinese Johnson
Proviso West HS, Bellwood

Nicole Jones
U of Chicago Woodlawn,
Chicago

Husna Kidwai
Hersey HS, Mount Prospect

Emma Knepp
Morton HS, Morton

Amanda Kriegl
Belvidere North HS, Belvidere

Brian Kusnerick
Collinsville HS, Maryville

Rachel Lankenau
Illinois State University,
Warrenville

Catherine Linou
Lane Tech HS, Chicago

Rebecca Lisitza
Niles North HS, Skokie

Paige Lloyd
Heritage Christian School,
Olympia Fields

Lauren Logsdon
Effingham HS, Effingham

Adam Lopez
Northern Illinois University,
Mendota

Briana Lucas
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign, O'Fallon

Alysia Luevano
Zion Benton HS, Winthrop
Harbor

Krystal-Symone Marquez
Augustana College, Sugar
Grove

Elizabeth Martinez
Plainfield Central HS,
Plainfield

Brock Massie
Kenwood Academy, Chicago

Shavon Mathus
Morgan Park HS, Chicago

Kimberly McBrain
Hillsboro HS, Witt

Miguel Melchor
Lake View HS, Chicago

Martyna Michalak
Loyola University, Chicago

Brittany Miller
East St Louis HS, Alorton

Gabriela Miranda
Collinsville HS, Collinsville

Nora Nagle
Bremen HS, Manhattan

Aaron Nance
Carbondale Comm HS,
Carbondale

Mariah Newsome
Brooks College Prep, Chicago

Ruby Ortiz
Noble Street HS, Chicago

Dulce Padilla
Jones College Prep, Chicago

Lisa Papeck
Hoffman Estates HS,
Hoffman Estates

Danielle Pfister
Morton HS, Morton

Dan Pitts
Monmouth College, Oswego

Slawomir Podraza
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign, Lake in
the Hills

Emily Popescu
National-Louis University,
Skokie

LaSha Porter
East St Louis HS, Washington
Park

Kayley Pyne
Normal Comm West HS,
Normal

Jimena Ramirez
Noble Street HS, Chicago

Sofia Ramos
Mother McAuley HS, Chicago

Ruben Reyes
Northern Illinois University,
Cicero

Jahmila Rodriguez
Jones College Prep, Chicago

Stephanie Rogers
Phoenix Military Academy,
Chicago

Michael Ruiz
Harlem HS, Machesney Park

Maria Sauder
Morton HS, Morton

Emily Schuelke
Jefferson HS, Rockford

Adriana Servin
Curie HS, Chicago

Sara Seweryn
Queen of Peace HS, Chicago

Jigna Shah
National-Louis University,
DesPlaines

Sierra Sims
Seton Academy, Dolton

Javon Smith
Thornton Township HS,
Riverdale

Timothy Strong
Rich Central HS, Richton Park

Jennifer Stroot
O'Fallon Twp HS, O'Fallon

Taiesha Stroud
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign, Chicago

Edward Sullivan
Glenbard East HS, Lombard

Michelle Taylor
Eastern Illinois University,
Champaign

Aubrey Templeman
Hoffman Estates HS,
Hoffman Estates

Desiree Torres
Oswego East HS,
Montgomery

Felissa Tugade
Immaculate Conception HS,
Franklin Park

Gargi Vaghmare
Mather HS, Chicago

Christa Valencia
Thornton Fractional South
HS, Lansing

Mayra Velasco
Taft HS, Chicago

Diana Vidal
Morton East HS, Cicero

Elizabeth Walsh
Providence Catholic HS,
Channahon

Brittany Welch
Althoff Catholic HS, Swansea

Jocelyn Wilcox
Bradley-Bourbonnais HS,
Bourbonnais

Zoe Worst
Oswego HS, Oswego

Lillian Yawanis
National-Louis University,
Skokie

Delina Zapata
Dundee-Crown HS,
Carpentersville