



For Immediate Release

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Gates Millennium Scholar Program Awards Scholarships to 150 American Indian and Alaska Native Students

Elite Students Representing 48 Native Tribes Receive Awards to Support Post-Secondary Education

Albuquerque, NM – May 21, 2010 – The 2010 class of Gates Millennium Scholars will include 150 American Indian and Alaska Native students. The recipients are top students with a cumulative 3.3 GPA or higher, on a 4.0 scale, and represent 48 distinct tribes from 23 different states.

Combined with the 150 Native recipients, the Gates Millennium Scholars Program (GMS) will support a total of 1,000 freshman students of color with scholarships beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year. The good-through-graduation college scholarship can be used at a college or university of the recipients' choice and have funding that can include graduate study through a doctoral degree in seven academic disciplines. In total, the 2010 class of recipients represent upwards of 700 different high schools across 45 states, the District of Columbia and three U.S. territories.

UNCF—the United Negro College Fund—administers the Gates Millennium Scholars Program and partners with the American Indian Graduate Center Scholars (AIGCS) to recruit, select and support American Indian and Alaska Native Gates Millennium Scholars.

“Hundreds of highly qualified American Indian and Alaska Native students complete a rigorous application process in order to be considered for the prestigious GMS scholarship. The applicants' drive for advanced education is continually impressive, as are their academic and leadership achievements and unwavering commitment to their home communities. It is simply inspiring to be a part of this process,” says Sam Deloria, Director of AIGC.

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Established in 1999, GMS has become a highly successful program, funding more than 13,000 students to date in their pursuit of post-secondary degrees. The Gates Millennium Scholars Program assists students not only by alleviating financial burdens, but also by offering academic support and mentoring services. The success of the program is proven by retention and graduation rates; the five-year retention rate for Gates Scholars is over 87 percent and the five-year graduation rate is nearly 80 percent.

For a complete list of 2010 Gates Scholars or for more information about the Gates Millennium Scholars Program, visit www.gmsp.org. To learn more about AIGC Scholars, please visit our website www.aigcs.org.

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