

NEWS RELEASE

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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

Mitchell Institute Announces the 2008 Mitchell Scholars

Portland, ME (June 2, 2008): One hundred twenty-nine (129) Maine high school students have been chosen as 2008 Mitchell Scholars by the Senator George J. Mitchell Scholarship Research Institute. **With the selection of this year's scholarship recipients, the Institute is pleased to announce that it has supported more than 1,500 Maine students in their pursuit of higher education by awarding more than \$6 million in financial assistance.**

Founded by Senator George Mitchell, the Mitchell Institute annually provides scholarships to one student from every public high school in the state of Maine. The scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic potential, community service and financial need. Scholarships average \$5,000 each, dispersed in increments of \$1,250 for up to four years. **A list of the 2008 Mitchell Scholars can be found at the end of this release.**

In addition to scholarship help, Mitchell Scholars gain access to Mitchell Institute support programs, which include community service projects, leadership and professional development, mentoring opportunities, and summer employment fellowships. These programs connect and engage the Mitchell Scholars with their communities and their chosen career paths with a goal of encouraging graduates to remain in Maine after college. The Mitchell Institute believes that the exceptionally high 95% college persistence rate among Mitchell Scholars is due in part to these support programs. Mitchell Scholars also become a part of an ongoing longitudinal research study that will track their progress and evaluate the impact of the organization's programming.

Since 2003, KeyBank has provided funding for sixteen Mitchell Scholarships (one for each county in Maine) in the amount of \$6,000 each (\$1,500 each year). These awards are targeted to first-generation college students.

One member from the new class of Mitchell Scholars has been selected as the 2004 Buzz Fitzgerald-Bath Iron Works Pioneer Mitchell Scholar. Brandon Almy, a recent graduate of Mt. Ararat High School, was awarded this distinction in recognition of his leadership qualities.

Later this summer, the Mitchell Institute will be naming other Pioneer Scholars, including the recipients of the Unum - Stephen B. Center Diversity Leadership Awards. These five annual awards seek to encourage those who inspire others to value differences and end discrimination.

Sixty-three percent (63%) of the new class of Mitchell Scholars come from families with less than \$5,000 available from their own resources to contribute to the student's college education, and 61% of the Mitchell Scholars selected in 2008 come from families where neither parent holds a four-year college degree.

“These are students for whom the scholarship will make a real difference and who will, in turn, make a difference in their communities,” said Senator Mitchell. “My family had few financial resources. Neither of my parents finished high school, but they believed in education. With their help and the help of others, I was able to go to college, and it changed my life. Maine’s young people deserve the same opportunity to succeed.”

For more information about the Mitchell Institute, please visit www.mitchellinstitute.org.

2008 Mitchell Scholars

Androscoggin County

Cassandra Carlow, Lisbon High School
April Deemer, Oak Hill High School*
Joshua Gagne, Lewiston High School
Jacob Marceau, Livermore Falls High School
Danielle McConnell, Edward Little High School
Sarah McKeown, Leavitt Area High School
Paige Piper, Poland Regional High School

Aroostook County

Alex Bird, Washburn District High School
Mark Boucher, Madawaska High School
Parker Brown, Houlton High School
Kaci Caron, Fort Kent Community High School
Kara Cushman, Central Aroostook High School
Otis Edgecomb, Fort Fairfield High School
Kylie Kennedy, Southern Aroostook Community School
Alexander Martin, Van Buren District Secondary School
Sheridan McCordic, Hodgdon High School*
Samantha Paradis, Wisdom High School
Amanda Pelletier, Caribou High School
Jacquelyn Raymond, Ashland Community High School
Addison Rossignol, Limestone Community High School
Jake Rottersman, Maine School of Science and Math
Keisha Ward, Presque Isle High School
Molly White, Easton High School

Cumberland County

Fernando Cantu, Brunswick High School
Jamie Cruz, Gray-New Gloucester High School*
Kevin Daley, Scarborough High School
Daniel Gerges, Yarmouth High School
Travis Guerrette, Windham High School
Shannon Lyons, Cape Elizabeth High School
Tonya Mailman, Westbrook High School

Kathleen Mathews, Greely High School
Alfine Nathalie, Falmouth High School
Hoang Nguyen, South Portland High School
Bosco Oringa, Portland High School
Pierson Petropoulos, Deering High School
Lucinda Pike, Gorham High School
Shuang Song, Freeport High School
Abishag Suresh, Lake Region High School

Franklin County

Nicholas Bourassa, Jay High School*
Krista Jamison, Rangeley High School
Nathan Kinney, Mount Abram High School
Michelle Oswald, Mount Blue High School

Hancock County

Shelbi Cote, Sumner Memorial High School*
Steven Ensworth, George Stevens Academy
Patricia Merrill, Ellsworth High School
Nathan Pukay, Bucksport High School
Melanie Strout, Mount Desert Island High School
Alison Turner, Deer Isle-Stonington High School

Kennebec County

Alexis Baxter, Winslow High School
Hannah DeAngelis, Maranacook Community High School
Andrew Estrada, Hall-Dale High School
Christopher Houdlette, Gardiner Area High School
Danielle Johnson, Erskine Academy
Rachael Mack, Cony High School
Lesley Mo, Waterville High School
Julia Sidelinger, Messalonskee High School
Marianne Vickerson, Winthrop High School*
Kaytlin Woodman, Monmouth Academy

Knox County

Amilia Campbell, North Haven Community School
Dylan Chapman, Camden Hills High School*
Abigail Jones, Rockland District High School
Stephanie Littlehale, Georges Valley High School
Samuel Rosen, Vinalhaven High School

Lincoln County

Hannah Goodwin, Medomak Valley High School

Amy Hodgdon, Boothbay Region High School
Noreen McLeod, Wiscasset High School
Sueann Shiffer, Lincoln Academy*

Oxford County

John Condon, Buckfield High School
Kelsey McLaren, Oxford Hills High School
Marie Russell, Mountain Valley High School
Joseph Stefano, Fryeburg Academy*
Elizabeth Theriault, Sacopee Valley High School
Samantha Webster, Dirigo High School
Andrew Whitney, Telstar High School

Penobscot County

Thomas Anderson, Katahdin High School
Travis Blackmer, Brewer High School
Tyler Cates, Old Town High School
Autumn Doughty, John Bapst High School
Amanda Gifford, Lee Academy
Denise Gray, Hermon High School
Courtney Hatton, Mattanawcook Academy
Samantha Hockridge, Penobscot Valley High School
Christian Laroche, Bangor High School
Jordan McLaughlin, Schenck High School
Andrew McLaughlin, Central High School
Ryan Mountain, Dexter Regional High School
Matthieu Nadeau, Orono High School
Brooke Oliver, Stearns High School
Sara Pomeroy, Hampden Academy*
Michelle Wilcox, Nokomis High School

Piscataquis County

Virginia Cookson, Foxcroft Academy
Jonathan Grant, Piscataquis Community High School
Cheryl Roesing, Penquis Valley High School*
Gabriel Tomer, Greenville High School

Sagadahoc County

Brandon Almy, Mt. Ararat High School
Celia Carlton, Richmond High School
Kelsea Kenyon, Morse High School*

Somerset County

Rodger Bartlett, Carrabec High School

Jessica Beaudoin, Skowhegan High School
Sebastian Jackson, Upper Kennebec Valley High School
Ross Martikke, Madison Memorial High School
Jacob Morissette, Forest Hills Consolidated School*
Briana Rawson, Lawrence High School
Jessica Talbot, Maine Central Institute

Waldo County

Brian Blanchard, Mount View High School*
Amanda Chaney, Searsport High School
Briana Curry, Belfast Area High School
Shawna Johnston, Islesboro Central School

Washington County

Eric Brooks, Narraguagus High School*
Timothy Burns, Lubec Consolidated School
Michael Cummings, Shead High School
Angela Geel, Washington Academy
Tyler Langill, East Grand School
David Lumbert, Calais High School
Vanessa MacLean, Jonesport-Beals High School
Nicholas Shults, Machias Memorial High School
Desiree Tyrrell, Woodland High School

York County

Adam Bates, Marshwood High School
Katie Beyea, Massabesic High School
Codi Booher, Biddeford High School
Stephanie Guillemette, Sanford High School
William Hagen, Noble High School
Jesse Hamilton, Wells High School
Emily Hinkle, Traip Academy
John Laude, Kennebunk High School
Joseph Marro, Bonny Eagle High School*
Chelsea Noble, Thornton Academy
Elizabeth Ouellette, Old Orchard Beach High School
Lindsay Putnam, York High School

* Denotes KeyBank Mitchell Scholars