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

Mitchell Institute Announces the 2009 Mitchell Scholars

Portland, ME (June 12, 2009): One hundred thirty (130) Maine high school students have been chosen as 2009 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 1,650 Maine students in their pursuit of higher education by awarding more than \$7 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 2009 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. **Mitchell Scholars demonstrate a remarkable college persistence rate of 95%, and a six-year college graduation rate that is 45% higher than the Maine average.** 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). The **KeyBank Mitchell Scholarships** are targeted to first-generation college students.

The Mitchell Institute has also named 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.

Overall, sixty-five percent (65%) of Mitchell Scholars come from families where neither parent holds a four-year degree and sixty-nine percent (69%) are from families whose household income is below the state median.

"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.

2009 Mitchell Scholars

Androscoggin

Dustin Ambrose, Lewiston High School
Brittney Bell, Poland Regional High School*
Sonya Catlin, Oak Hill High School
Mathew Hardison, Lisbon High School
Hailey Hemminger, Livermore Falls High School
Katelyn Kirk, Leavitt Area High School
Gregory St. Denis, Edward Little High School #

Aroostook

Morgan Berube, Washburn District High School
Meagan Bossie, Caribou High School
Danielle Cropley, Central Aroostook High School
Sean Daniels, Easton High School
Dustin Graham, Presque Isle High School
Brianna Hanington, Hodgdon High School
Matthew Harvey, Fort Kent Community High School*
Alex Michaud, Wisdom High School
Joachim Parent, Van Buren District Secondary School
Stephen Philbrook, Ashland Community High School
Parker Rossignol, Limestone Community High School
Emma Senzek, Southern Aroostook Community School
Isaac St. John, Houlton High School #
Brent Stoliker, Madawaska High School
Renee Symonds, Maine School of Science and Math
Rose-Mary Williams, Fort Fairfield High School

Cumberland

Nikola Champlin, Greely High School
Alysia Doherty, Lake Region High School
Catherine Farsaci, Casco Bay High School
Samantha Harden, Scarborough High School #
Cody Humphrey, Gray-New Gloucester High School*
Leigh Johnson, Yarmouth High School

Andrea King, South Portland High School
Kathryn Lane, Windham High School
Adam LaViolet, Westbrook High School
Emily MacDuffie, Cape Elizabeth High School
Erika Penrod, Falmouth High School
Igor Radosavljevic, Portland High School
Kaitlin Ridgeway, Gorham High School
Valerie Smith, Brunswick High School
Molly Susla, Freeport High School
Nattakul Vivattanakulpanit, Deering High School #

Franklin

Jennifer Calden, Jay High School*
Emma James, Mount Abram High School
Samantha Olivieri, Rangeley High School
Christopher Reynolds, Mount Blue High School

Hancock

Grace Bell, George Stevens Academy
Audra Eaton, Deer Isle-Stonington High School
Camden Fernald, Mount Desert Island High School
Katelyn Tracy, Ellsworth High School*
Jordan Trasko, Bucksport High School
Eva Vandegrift, Sumner Memorial High School

Kennebec

Elizabeth Anderson, Cony High School
Abigail Crocker, Hall-Dale High School
Jedidiah Dumais, Messalonskee High School
Travis Elliot, Maranacook Community High School
Katie Irwin, Winslow High School*
Kevin Leavitt, Winthrop High School
Alexandra McAuliff, Waterville High School
Ethan Pierce, Gardiner Area High School
Stephanie Spencer, Monmouth Academy
Finn Welch, Erskine Academy

Knox

Kelsey Barnes, Rockland District High School
Mary Fagan, Camden Hills High School

Chad Guilford, Vinalhaven High School
Natalie Jones, North Haven Community School
Danielle Leavitt, Georges Valley High School*

Lincoln

Dotti Cost, Wiscasset High School
Hilary Hanscom, Lincoln Academy*
Micah Ludwig, Medomak Valley High School
Jessica Wilkey, Boothbay Region High School

Oxford

Rachel Bukoveckas, Sacopee Valley High School
Anna Chase, Dirigo High School
Kiley Clement, Mountain Valley High School
Patrick Gallagher, Telstar High School
Abby Jones, Buckfield High School
Cherith Reyes, Oxford Hills High School*
Jesse Sawin, Fryeburg Academy

Penobscot

John Ahearn, John Bapst High School
Angela Della Porta, Nokomis High School #
Jody Demmons, Hermon High School
Megan Dorr, Old Town High School
Jenna Guiggey, Katahdin High School
Heidi Harrison, Hampden Academy
Audrey Lachance, Penobscot Valley High School
Jana Larlee, Mattanawcook Academy
Ryan Larochelle, Bangor High School
Cassandra Lowell, Lee Academy
Joshua Manning, Orono High School
David McNally Jr., Brewer High School
Christopher Ouellette, Schenck High School*
Jericah Potvin, Stearns High School
Jacob Speed, Central High School
Joshua Stanhope, Dexter Regional High School

Piscataquis

Lucy Cayard, Piscataquis Community High School
Joshua Conroy, Foxcroft Academy

Naomi Inman, Greenville High School
Erica Lyford, Penquis Valley High School*

Sagadahoc

Bryan Bascom, Richmond High School*
Adrienne Jaeger, Morse High School
Claire Jamison, Mt. Ararat High School

Somerset

Elise Begin, Forest Hills Consolidated School
Nicole Benner, Madison Memorial High School
Jessica Brown, Upper Kennebec Valley High School
Dustin Kniffen, Carrabec High School*
Alecia Lambert, Maine Central Institute
Minna Mathiasson, Skowhegan High School
Julia Spieldenner, Lawrence High School

Waldo

Andrew Coombs, Islesboro Central School*
Samantha Gogan, Mount View High School
Hillary Hoyt, Searsport High School
Dacia Ryder, Belfast Area High School

Washington

Scott Boomer, Woodland High School
Zackary Carle, Calais High School
Sarah Castor, Washington Academy
Kelsey Daoust, East Grand School
Samantha Denbow-Seeley, Lubec Consolidated School
Justin Lewey, Shead High School
Morgan MacLean, Jonesport-Beals High School*
Joshua Smith, Narraguagus High School
Jacob Stevens, Machias Memorial High School

York

Colby Averill, Biddeford High School
Christine Barnes, York High School*
Joshua Calcia, Kennebunk High School
Matthew Chick, Wells High School
Jayme Gough, Noble High School

Ashley Johnson, Old Orchard Beach High School

Celeste Lozier, Bonny Eagle High School

Curtis Moulton, Massabesic High School

Kristopher Spinney, Traip Academy

Collin Stuart, Sanford High School

Parker Towle, Marshwood High School

Shona Workman, Thornton Academy

* Denotes KeyBank Mitchell Scholars

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