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

Senator George Mitchell Announces the 2011 Mitchell Scholars and Increase to Scholarships

Portland, ME (June 6, 2011): Senator George J. Mitchell was in Maine today to announce the selection of this year’s Mitchell Scholars – and to share news of an increase to the scholarships from \$5,000 to \$6,000 per student.

“Every year I look forward to announcing the naming of the new Mitchell Scholars – one from every public high school in Maine,” said Senator Mitchell. “These are hard-working students from hard-working families, and it is our great pleasure to help them achieve their college dreams.”

Senator Mitchell went on to say, “It is especially exciting to announce that the Board of Directors of the Institute recently approved an increase in the value of the scholarships we award. Beginning with the students just selected, the Mitchell Scholarships will be \$6,000. We know that college costs are rising even as family resources are diminishing. This decision to increase the scholarship signals our commitment to Maine’s students, and to the future of this great state.”

One hundred twenty-nine (129) Maine high school students have been chosen as the 2011 Mitchell Scholars by the Senator George J. Mitchell Scholarship Research Institute. **More than 1,800 Maine students have been supported by the program in their pursuit of higher education with awards of over \$8 million in financial assistance since its inception.**

Founded by Senator George Mitchell, the Mitchell Institute annually provides a scholarship to one graduating senior 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.** **A list of the 2011 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. **In fact, nearly 90% of Mitchell Scholar Alumni live and work in Maine or intend to do so within the next five years. Mitchell Scholars demonstrate a remarkable college persistence rate of 95%. They are also committed to service: Mitchell Scholars and Alumni report devoting a total of nearly 30,000 hours to community service last year alone.** Scholars become a part of an ongoing

longitudinal research study that tracks their progress and evaluates the impact of the organization's programming.

Since 2003, KeyBank has provided funding for sixteen Mitchell Scholarships, one for each county in Maine. **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, nearly two-thirds of Mitchell Scholars come from families where neither parent holds a four-year degree and about two-thirds 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.

2011 Mitchell Scholars

Androscoggin County

Luis Pernia-Rovayo, Edward Little High School
Lucas Witham, Leavitt Area High School
Russ Caligiuri Jr., Lewiston High School
Bailey Keating, Lisbon High School *
Nicholas Mitchell, Livermore Falls High School
Sara Lacroix, Oak Hill High School
Tyler Myers, Poland Regional High School

Aroostook County

Katelyn Orcutt, Ashland Community High School
Kyle McEwen, Caribou High School
Taylor Bradbury, Central Aroostook High School *
Jonathan Kimball, Easton High School
Brooke Beaulieu, Fort Fairfield High School
Jessica Walker, Fort Kent Community High School
Julia Neher, Hodgdon High School
Marina DiMarco, Houlton High School
Chelsea Leighton, Limestone Community High School
Erin Dugal, Madawaska High School
George Peterson, Maine School of Science and Math

Kathryn Schneider, Presque Isle High School
Cassie Garcelon, Southern Aroostook Community School
Jonathan Chasse, Van Buren District Secondary School
Cameron Huston, Washburn District High School
Kassie Theriault, Wisdom High School

Cumberland County

Tabitha Waite, Brunswick High School
Benjamin Richardson, Cape Elizabeth High School
Gerald Kazilionis, Casco Bay High School
Vasin Vivattanakupanit, Deering High School #
Tess Wroblewski, Falmouth High School
Margaret Stavros, Freeport High School
Caite Robinson, Gorham High School
Tanika Gorham, Gray-New Gloucester High School #
Meaghan Crowley, Greely High School
Jennifer Cobb, Lake Region High School
Khadija Hassan, Portland High School #
Matthew Eaton, Scarborough High School
Dominic Tannoia, South Portland High School
Trevor Bates, Westbrook High School *
Jennifer Cobb, Windham High School
Benjamin McNaboe, Yarmouth High School

Franklin County

Rose LeBlanc, Jay High School
Wren Tooker, Mount Abram High School *
Gwendolyn Beacham, Mount Blue High School
Sierra Marchacos, Rangeley High School

Hancock County

Ryan Bailey, Bucksport High School
Sarah Eaton, Deer Isle-Stonington High School
Nicholas Richie, Ellsworth High School
Sabrina Vivian, George Stevens Academy *
Grace Robbins, Mount Desert Island High School
Benjamin Holmes, Sumner Memorial High School

Kennebec County

Jeffrey Vigue Jr. Cony High School
Jennifer Prescott, Erskine Academy
Dalton Eldridge, Gardiner Area High School
Cady Wilson, Hall-Dale High School
Kara Witherill, Maranacook Community High School
Ryan Berthiaume, Messalonskee High School
Stephani Knaus-Tucker, Monmouth Academy
Dylan Bolduc, Waterville High School
Kylee Risinger, Winslow High School *
Kelsey Nason, Winthrop High School

Knox County

Shelby Thomas, Camden Hills High School
Cody Poland, Georges Valley High School
Abigail Campbell, North Haven Community School
William Kelly, Rockland District High School *
Shawn Chilles, Vinalhaven High School

Lincoln County

Nathaniel Schwehm, Boothbay Regional High School
Samara Ethier-Whitmore, Lincoln Academy *
Christopher Benedict, Medomak Valley High School
Brian Campbell, Wiscasset High School

Oxford County

Samantha Jones, Buckfield High School *
Hannah Knight, Dirigo High School
Aubrie Howard, Fryeburg Academy
Megean Bourgeois, Mountain Valley High School
Zane Duffany, Oxford Hills High School
Zachary Fyler, Sacopee Valley High School
Elek Pew, Telstar High School

Penobscot County

Jacques Larochelle, Bangor High School
Catherine Nichols, Brewer High School
Ryan Cullen, Central High School
Hunter Ogden, Dexter Regional High School
Michaela Hoffman, Hampden Academy
Chelsea Lear-Ward, Hermon High School
Marissa Rublee, John Bapst High School
Andrew Vetter, Katahdin High School
Rochelle Burrill, Lee Academy
Russell Phillips, Mattanawcook Academy
Tyler Jones, Nokomis High School
Eryn Nelson, Old Town High School *
Mengting Guo, Orono High School #
Cady Hockridge, Penobscot Valley High School
Taylor McCafferty, Schenck High School
Brandon McLaughlin, Stearns High School

Piscataquis County

Vanessa Cousins, Foxcroft Academy
Dylan Bouchard, Greenville High School
Spencer Traylor, Penquis Valley High School *
Megan Martell, Piscataquis Community High School

Sagadahoc County

Zachery Shaw, Morse High School *
Randi London, Mt. Ararat High School
Morgan Rines, Richmond High School

Somerset County

Ashia Jepson, Carrabec High School *
Dylan McNally, Forest Hills Consolidated School
Macy Saucier, Lawrence High School
Lindsey Kandiko, Madison Memorial High School
Tyler Maloon, Maine Central Institute
Lucas Fortier, Skowhegan High School
Brandon Johnson, Upper Kennebec Valley High School

Waldo County

Jacob O'Jala, Belfast Area High School *
Jason Hatch, Islesboro Central School
Lorna Harriman, Mount View High School
Emily LaRosa, Searsport High School

Washington County

Scott Carpenter, Calais High School
Dustin Morse, East Grand High School
Jessica MacLean, Jonesport-Beals High School
Sara Smith, Machias High School
Brittany Burke, Narraguagus High School
Kirby McPhail, Shead High School
Timothy Sawyer, Washington Academy *
Crystal Annis, Woodland High School

York County

Jericca Stackpole, Biddeford High School
Sara George, Bonny Eagle High School #
William Records, Kennebunk High School
Anthony Strada, Marshwood High School
Christie Allen, Massabesic High School
Tiffany Currier, Noble High School
Ariane Bouchard, Old Orchard Beach High School *
Kelsey Doiron, Sanford High School
Kaitlyn Hall, Thornton Academy
Hailey Frisbee, Traip Academy
Meaghan Lewia, Wells High School
Shawnee Flynn, York High School

* Denotes KeyBank Mitchell Scholars

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