



Department of Education  
Office of the Secretary  
White House Liaison Office  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

**FAX TRANSMITTAL**

To: Gabriella Bushman

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

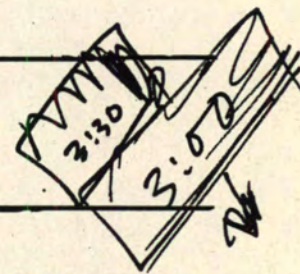
Phone Number: 456-5701

Fax Number: 456-5709

From: Diane Rossi

Phone Number: 401-3144

Fax Number: (202) 205-0501



Message: Fact sheet and Scholars' schedule  
for the week to give you a feel for  
what they'll be doing

Please call if you need more.  
We're working on finding interesting

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE**

stories / students.

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
COMMISSION ON PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

600 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE, SW  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202-3500

## THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

### FACT SHEET

The United States Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964, by Executive Order of the President, to recognize and honor our Nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. In 1979, the Program was extended to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, creative, and performing arts. Each year, up to 141 students are named as Presidential Scholars, one of the Nation's highest honors for high school students. The Scholars are chosen on the basis of their accomplishments in many areas--academic and artistic success, leadership, and involvement in school and the community. The Scholars represent excellence in education and the promise of greatness in young people. In honoring the Presidential Scholars, the President of the United States symbolically honors all graduating high school seniors of high potential.

The Commission on Presidential Scholars is a group of eminent private citizens appointed by the President to select and honor the Presidential Scholars. The Commission members receive no monetary compensation for their participation. The final selection of Scholars rests solely upon the independent judgement of the Commission. The U.S. Department of Education provides administrative support and helps the Commission fulfill its responsibilities.

There are two paths of accomplishment toward earning the honor of Presidential Scholar. The greater number of students (up to 121) are chosen on the basis of broad academic achievement. A smaller number of students (up to 20) are selected on the basis of their academic and artistic scholarship in visual arts, performing arts, or creative writing. *Students may not apply individually to the Program, nor may their schools nominate them.*

For the academic component of the 1995 Program, all high school seniors who are citizens of the United States are automatically considered for participation if, on or before November 1994, they have scored exceptionally well on either the SAT of the College Board or the ACT Assessment of the American College Testing Program and did not request that their scores remain private. Approximately 2,600 students are selected as Candidates and receive an invitation to participate.

To be considered further, candidates must submit candidacy materials, including essays, self-assessments, secondary school reports, and transcripts. In late March, 500 semifinalists are chosen by an independent, national committee of educators convened by the Commission on Presidential Scholars.

For the arts component of the Program, a group of selected students who participate in the Arts Recognition and Talent Search (ARTS), a national program for identification and recognition of young people who have demonstrated excellence in the arts, are identified for consideration by the Commission. (ARTS is a program of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts, which is based in Miami, Florida.) The semifinalists are asked to affirm their candidacy by submitting supporting materials.

In April, the Commission selects up to 141 Presidential Scholars. One young man and one young woman are chosen from each state, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and from families of U.S. citizens living abroad. In addition, up to 15 students are chosen at large, and up to 20 students are chosen from among the ARTS awardees. Commissioners consider community activities and leadership qualities in selecting all students named as Presidential Scholars.

In April, the President of the United States notifies, by mail, all Presidential Scholars of their selection. Because the Presidential Scholars Program is a recognition program, there is no monetary award.

The Commission invites the Scholars to be honored for their accomplishments during the Presidential Scholars National Recognition Week, held in Washington, D.C., in June. As guests of the Commission, the Scholars meet with government officials, educators, authors, musicians, scientists, and other accomplished persons. They visit the museums and monuments of the Nation's capital and attend recitals, receptions, and ceremonies in their honor. National Recognition Week culminates with a ceremony sponsored by the White House. At this ceremony, the Scholars are awarded the Presidential Scholars medallion to commemorate their achievement.

The Scholars identify the educators who have influenced them the most, and these educators are designated as Distinguished Teachers. The teachers are presented with the Presidential Scholars Distinguished Teachers plaque, and they are honored at a special reception.

During the past 30 years, this unique federal program has honored nearly 3,700 Presidential Scholars. All these distinguished young people have demonstrated leadership, scholarship, contribution to school and community, and accomplishments in the arts, sciences, or other fields. The work of the Commission on Presidential Scholars reaffirms, on behalf of the President, the Nation's commitment to education that enables people to lead lives of challenge, accomplishment, and fulfillment.

For additional information, contact the Presidential Scholars Program at (202) 401-0961.

**Wednesday, June 21, cont'd.**

9:30pm - 11:00pm

**Opening Reception**

Kennedy Center Atrium

(Scholars, Advisors, Commissioners, PSF, NFAA,  
Donors, Sponsors, Parents, Teachers, Guests)**Thursday, June 22**

9:00am - 11:00am

**Panel Discussion: Why Am I Here?/Multiple-  
intelligences/Creativity**(Featuring: Irving Alexander, Mark DeLong,  
Michelle Lamont, Alison Stuebe)

Lisner Auditorium, GWU

730 21st Street, NW

(All invited)

1:00pm - 4:00pm

**Department of Education Briefing & Teacher  
Activities**

U.S. Department of Education

600 Independence Avenue, SW

Barnard Auditorium

(Commissioners, PSF, Teachers)

1:30pm - 3:30pm

**Showing of Scholars' Art and Writing**

National Museum of American Art

8th &amp; G St.

(Scholars, Advisors)

7:00pm - 8:00pm

**After Hours Tour of Mount Vernon**

Mount Vernon, VA

(Scholars, Advisors, Commissioners, PSF,  
Teachers)

8:00pm - 10:00pm

**Bus sightseeing Tour**

(Scholars, Advisors, Teachers)

**Friday, June 23**

9:00am - 12:00pm

**White House Commission Business Meeting**

Wyndham Bristol Hotel

(Commissioners)

10:00am - 11:30am

**Official Welcome; Tour of Capitol**

(Scholars, Advisors, Teachers)

2:00pm - 4:00pm

**Does the Media Foster an Informed Electorate?**(Featuring: Gwen Ifill, Ruth Shalit, Eric  
Fingerhut, Mary Cheh)

Washington Hilton, International Ballroom West

1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW

(All invited)

**Friday, June 23, cont'd.**

4:30pm - 6:00pm      "Oceans" exhibit talk at Smithsonian  
National Museum of Natural History  
(Scholars, Advisors)

6:00pm - 8:00pm      White House Commission Reception  
Historic Car Barn  
36th and M Streets, NW  
(Commissioners, PSF, NFAA, Donors, Sponsors)

7:00pm - 10:00pm      Poolside Party/Across America Buffet  
Washington Hilton  
1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
(Scholars, Advisors)

**Saturday, June 24**

9:00am - 11:00am      Speakers: Rear Admiral Pelaez/Janet Reno  
Four Seasons Hotel  
2800 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
(All invited)

12:00pm - 3:30pm      Distinguished Teachers Luncheon  
(Address by Teacher of the Year, scholars  
introduce/honor distinguished teachers)  
Four Seasons Hotel  
2800 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
(Scholars, Advisors, Teachers, Commissioners,  
PSF)

8:00pm - until      Pizza Party  
Marvin Center Game Room, 5th Floor  
(Scholars, Advisors)

**Sunday, June 25**

**Departures**

## Kunin

If Dick Riley is a man with a story, Madeliene Kunin is a mother, legislator, thinker, and author and like the Secretary a Governor as well. Madeliene Kunin is a woman who believes in the positive, who has helped to break the mold on what women can be in American political life. She knows better than just about anyone what it means for a woman to live differently in the 1990's and " govern differently." Her book, "Living a Political Life" is an inner portrait of the demands on the modern women who are redefining American politics. Above all Madeliene Kunin is a voice for all that is positive about American education.

**White House Commission on Presidential Scholars  
Presentation of Lyndon Baines Johnson Award to First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton**

**Diplomatic Room  
June 21, 1995, 11:30 a.m.**

Education Department Attendees

**Secretary Richard Riley**

**Deputy Secretary Madeleine Kunin**

**Diane Rossi, White House Liaison**

**Kimberly Watkins-Foote, Executive Director of the Commission**

Commission Members

**George Sinner, Chair of the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars**

**Ms. Barbara Holt, Managing Chair of the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars**

**Ms. Margaret R. Blackshere**

**Dr. Francis J. Bonner, Jr.**

**Mr. Thomas E. Britton**

**Reverend Stewart C. Cureton**

**Mr. John Davidson**

**Mr. Joseph D. DiVencenzo**

**Ms. Edith (Kit) Dobelle**

**Jim Fotter**

**Susan Frieibert**

**Susan Gaertner**

**Felicia Gervais**

**Elaine Griffin**

**Mr. Freman Hendrix**

**Ms. Patricia Jean Henry**

**Ms. Gloria Jackson**

**Ms. Delores Kohl**

**Mr. Nathaniel (Nat) LaCour**

**Ronnie Fern Liebowitz**

**Bill Marshall**

**Penny Miller**

**Sandy Miller**

**Marilyn Monahan**

**Dan Morales**

**Daniel Morris**

**Nancy Ellison Rollnick**

**James Shimoura**

**Eddie Smith, Jr.**

**Naira Sudarkasa**

**Nancy Verderber**

**Margaret Whillock**

## THE WHITE HOUSE COMMISSION ON PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

### SCRIPT FOR PRESENTATION OF LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON AWARD TO MRS. HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

To Be Presented At White House Reception at 11:15 a.m., June 21, 1995  
(Prepared by Barbara S. Holt)

Commissioners gather in selected room with Mrs. Clinton.

**Managing Chair, Barbara S. Holt, opens ceremony with overview of the Presidential Scholars Program, Commission, Foundation and the Lyndon Baine Johnson award:**

"Mrs. Clinton, it is an honor and pleasure

for the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars

to be here with you today at the White House.

As you know, the Presidential Scholars Program annually selects and honors

141 high school senior from all parts of the United States.

These students exemplify outstanding achievement

in scholarship, service, leadership and creativity.

For the Commission, these young students are models of the often untold

"good news" story about today's educational system in our country.

Often against great adversity, the young students you will meet shortly,

have at a tender age, already given enormous time and dedication

to educational, community and artistic goals.

The members of the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars

gathered here with you today

face the arduous task of annually selecting the Presidential Scholars

from a pool of thousands.

It is one of the most challenging tasks each of us faces in our otherwise busy careers.

I speak for everyone serving on the Commission

when I say to you that it is an honor and a distinct privilege  
for each of use to continue to support the Clinton administration by  
dedicating ourselves to the work of the Presidential Scholars Program.

We all have grown to believe this program is a "crown jewel"  
of the White House and the Department of Education

and we thank you for your growing support of our efforts.

Last year, the Presidential Scholars Foundation,  
the financial supporting arm of the Commission headed by Commissioner Ronnie  
Liebowitz,

established the Lyndon Baines Johnson and Jimmy Carter Awards  
to recognize the outstanding contributions of individuals and organizations  
that have made so much possible for thousands of Presidential Scholars and  
their selected distinguished teachers.

These awards honor the two presidents that initiated and expanded the Presidential  
Scholars Program.

It is now my pleasure to ask former North Dakota Governor, George Sinner, to present  
this year's Lyndon Baines Johnson award to you. Governor Sinner..."

**George Sinner reads the following statement:**

"First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton,  
you have been a lifelong advocate for children  
and a champion of the cause of excellence in education.

Having dedicated your earliest professional work  
to the Children's Defense Fund,  
you then, as First Lady of Arkansas,

worked tirelessly on behalf of children and their families,  
chairing the Arkansas Education Standards Committee,  
founding the Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families,  
and introducing a pioneering program entitled  
"Arkansas' Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youth"  
which trains parents to work with their children  
in preschool preparedness and literacy.

You have been an outspoken advocate of Goals 2000  
and you embody the dedication to excellence in education  
that has at its pinnacle the Presidential Scholars Program.

It is in the spirit of recognizing excellence,  
outstanding achievement and leadership,  
that we present to you today the Lyndon Baines Johnson Award  
from the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars.

Thank you for all you have done  
and all you continue to do  
in supporting a dedication to excellence in education.

Thank you for your support of the Presidential Scholars Program."  
(Barbara hands George the award, George hands the award to Mrs. Clinton.)  
Mrs. Clinton may choose to say a few words at this time, hand shakes, ceremony ends.

## ABOUT THE WHITE HOUSE COMMISSION ON PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS AWARDS

In celebration of 30 years of scholarship, leadership, service, and creativity, the Commission instituted two awards to honor and recognize publicly the outstanding contributions of individuals and organizations that have made so much possible for thousands of Presidential Scholars and Distinguished Teachers. The two awards also honor, in name, the two Presidents who initiated and expanded the Presidential Scholars Program.

The Commission held an arts competition among alumni Arts Scholars and selected a sculpture designed by Mr. Kevin Berlin. The sculpture, cast in bronze of museum quality, will be a lasting tribute to advocates and supporters of excellence in education. The awards were unveiled and presented at the John F. Kennedy for the Performing Arts on June 30, 1994 for the first time. Kevin Berlin, a 1983 Presidential Scholar, chose his antique quill and inkwell design to be "a proud symbol of academic and artistic excellence."



*Kevin Berlin with George Peapples, accepting the 1994 Jimmy Carter award on behalf of the General Motors Corporation*

## THE 1995 WINNERS OF THE LYNDON B. JOHNSON AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION BY AN INDIVIDUAL

**First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton** has been a life-long advocate for children and a champion of excellence in education. Immediately upon graduating from Yale Law School, Mrs. Clinton joined the staff of the Children's Defense Fund. As First Lady of Arkansas, Mrs. Clinton worked tirelessly on behalf of children and families, including chairing the Arkansas Education Standards Committee, founding the Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, and introducing a pioneering program entitled *Arkansas' Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youth*, which trains parents to work with their children in preschool preparedness and literacy. An outspoken advocate of Goals 2000, Mrs. Clinton represents the dedication to excellence in education which has, at its pinnacle, the Presidential Scholars Program.

**William L. Pressly** served on the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars through two administrations, from 1975-1980, and also served as chair of the Commission from 1978-1980. Dr. Pressly was of enormous assistance in easing the transition between Presidential administrations for the benefit of the Program, and in securing the program's posterity. Dr. Pressly's greatest legacy was his role as the driving force behind Executive Order 12158, by which President Carter established that up to twenty Scholars be selected on the basis of "outstanding scholastic and demonstrated ability and accomplishments in the visual and performing arts or in creative writing." In the early phase of that selection process, Dr. Pressly obtained the services of the Educational Testing Service's prototype program known as "Scholars in the Arts." Based on this model, four students each are selected for awards in the five categories of dance, theater, music, creative writing, and visual arts. Dr. Pressly has recalled that, "The Commission was very pleased."

## THE 1994 WINNERS OF THE LYNDON B. JOHNSON AWARD

**Eric F. Goldman** - architect and creator of the Presidential Scholars Program

**John M. Stalmaker** - Executive Director of the program for its first decade and created and developed the original selection

**Scott McVay** - Executive Director of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and ardent supporter, advocate and participant in the program for more than fifteen years

**Sanford C. Nemitz** - former Commissioner and creator/founder of the Presidential Scholars Foundation

## ABOUT THE WHITE HOUSE COMMISSION

The thirty-two member Commission is a group of eminent private citizens appointed by the President to select and honor the Presidential Scholars. Commissioners are selected from across the country, representing the fields of education, medicine, law, social services, business, and other professions. The Commissioners make the difficult choices of selecting Scholars from an initial pool of 2,600 candidates who demonstrate exceptional accomplishments in academics and an outstanding commitment to public service.

The Commission invites the 141 Presidential Scholars and the Distinguished Teachers to Washington, D.C. for National Recognition Week. Activities are funded through a public-private partnership of the Presidential Scholars Foundation and private corporate and philanthropic sources. As guests of the Commission, the Scholars meet with government officials, educators, authors, musicians, scientists, and other accomplished persons. Scholars also attend recitals, receptions, and ceremonies in their honor and visit museums and monuments in the nation's capital.

President Johnson opened the first meeting of the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars by stating that the Program was not just a reward for excellence, but a means of nourishing excellence. The Program was intended to stimulate achievement in a way that could be "revolutionary." The current Commission, appointed by President Clinton, and the Presidential Scholars Foundation, are committed to fulfilling that mission.

### WHITE HOUSE COMMISSION ON PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**GEORGE A. SINNER**

*North Dakota, Chairman*

**BARBARA S. HOLT**

*Maine, Managing Chair*

**RONNIE FERN LIEBOWITZ**

*New Jersey, Presidential Scholars Foundation*

**SUSAN FRIEBERT**

*Wisconsin, Program Committee Chair*

**WILLIAM MARSHALL**

*Ohio, Speakers Committee Chair*

**NIARA SUDARKASA**

*Pennsylvania, Selection/Review Committee Chair*

**SANDY MILLER**

*Nevada, Publicity Committee Chair*

**SANFORD C. NEMITZ**

*Pennsylvania, Advisor and Consultant*

## ABOUT THE PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS FOUNDATION

Organized in 1989 by former Commissioners, the Presidential Scholars Foundation was created to further the public-private partnership in financing the recognition of excellence in education. As the sole entity authorized by the Commission, the Presidential Scholars Foundation is dedicated to defining and expanding its fund raising efforts on behalf of the Presidential Scholars Program, to forming and operating an Alumni Society, and to sponsoring activities throughout the nation, through the network of Presidential Scholars and Distinguished Teachers. It is through this network that the imagination of the American public will be captured with regard to the importance of developing and honoring top student scholars. The Presidential Scholars Foundation is a non-profit corporation.

### PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

**RONNIE FERN LIEBOWITZ, Esq.**

*President*

**JOSEPH D. DiVINCENZO**

*Vice President*

**SANFORD C. NEMITZ**

*Secretary/Treasurer*

**BARBARA S. HOLT**

*Managing Chair,  
Commission*

**FRANCIS J. BONNER, JR.**

*Commissioner*

**THOMAS E. BRITTON**

*Commissioner*

**DAN MORRIS**

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**JAMES SHIMOURA**

*Commissioner*

**EDDIE L. SMITH, JR.**

*Commissioner*

**MARGARET M. WHILLOCK**

*Commissioner*

**KEVIN BERLIN**

*1983 Presidential Scholar*

**MARK R. DeLONG**

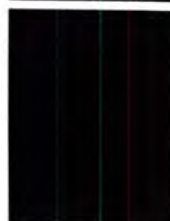
*Director,  
Center for Talented Youth*

# THE WHITE HOUSE COMMISSION ON PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS



**GEORGE A. SINNER**  
*North Dakota — 28C*

Commission Chair; Vice President, Public and Government Affairs, American Crystal Sugar Company; former Governor of North Dakota; former chair of the Western Governor's Association and the Senior Advisory Council on Water Governance; and an advocate for environmental programs with demonstrated long-term leadership in agriculture and government.



**BARBARA S. HOLT**  
*Maine — 15C*

Managing Chair of the Commission; currently a planning, management and collaboration consultant; Chair, York County Community Initiative Task Force; Board of Directors, United Way of York County; Corporator, Southern Maine Medical Center; Board of Advisors, The Maine SPEAKOUT Project for Equal Rights.



**MARGARET BLACKSHERE**  
*Illinois — 1C*

Secretary-Treasurer of the Illinois AFL-CIO; former teacher and President of the Illinois Federation of Teachers; serves on numerous boards including Voices for Illinois Children and the United Way of Illinois.



**FRANCIS J. BONNER, JR.**  
*Pennsylvania — 2C*

Chair of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Mt. Sinai and Graduate Hospitals, Philadelphia and Sacred Heart Hospital, Norristown.



**THOMAS BRITTON**  
*New Hampshire — 3C*

Marketing Manager for the Millipore Corporation in Massachusetts; native of New Hampshire; school board member of the Monadnock Regional School District; local and state political activist.



**REVEREND STEWART C. CURETON**  
*South Carolina — 4C*

Pastor, Reedy River Baptist Church; Past President, the Baptist Educational & Missionary Convention of South Carolina; newly elected Vice President At-Large of the National Baptist Convention, USA; Past Chairman of the Greenville, South Carolina Urban League.



**JOHN DAVIDSON**

*New Mexico — 5C*

Member of the New Mexico Commission on Higher Education; shareholder and Director in the law firm of Erwin and Davidson.



**JOSEPH D. DiVINCENZO**

*New York — 6C*

President, DiVincenzo & Associates Insurance Agency; trustee of the Erie Community College; Commissioner, Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority; and honoree of the Muscular Dystrophy Association of WNY.



**EDITH (KIT) DOBELLE**

*California — 7C*

Former White House Chief of Protocol in the Carter Administration and Staff Director for former First Lady Rosalynn Carter; and an active civic and community leader.



**JAMES FOTTER**

*Maine — 8C*

Public education employee advocate for the Maine Education Association; former President of the Wyoming Education Association for four years; former teacher and a member of the Education Commission of the States and the Wyoming Professional Standards Board.



**SUSAN FRIEBERT**

*Wisconsin — 9C*

Program Committee Chair; former teacher; current education consultant working with partnership and school-to-work programs; founding member of the board of Digestive Disease Research Center created to enhance public awareness of digestive diseases and provide support for basic research.



**SUSAN GAERTNER**

*Minnesota — 10C*

Newly elected Ramsey County Attorney — the fourth person to hold the office since 1993 and the first woman to hold the office; former Assistant Ramsey County Attorney for ten years.



**FELICIA GERVAIS**

*Massachusetts — 11C*

President of Leonard L. Farber, Incorporated, a shopping center development firm; serves on numerous non-profit boards such as Outreach Broward, a program for troubled and disturbed adolescents, and Center One, an AIDS center.



**ELAINE B. GRIFFIN**

*Alaska — 12C*

1995 National Teacher of the Year; teacher in a remote, two teacher, K-10 school in Chiniak where she teaches on a job-sharing basis; a public librarian for four years in Arizona, she holds a degree in library science.



**FREMAN HENDRIX**

*Michigan — 13C*

Chief of Staff - Chief Executive Assistant to Detroit Mayor Archer; former Assistant Wayne County Executive for Legislative Affairs; member of numerous civic groups, boards and commissions, including the Northwest Detroit Community Leaders Council and the Federal Home Loan Bank Board.

# THE PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM THROUGH THIRTY-TWO YEARS...

The Presidential Scholars Program has honored some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors for over 30 years. Initiated by President Johnson in 1964, the Commission annually selects one male and one female student from each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Americans living abroad, and 15 at-large students on the basis of outstanding scholarship, service, leadership and creativity through a rigorous selection and review process administered through the U.S. Department of Education. In 1979, President Carter expanded the program to honor up to 20 students selected by the Commission through an artistic competition. The artistic competition is conducted by the Arts Recognition and Talent Search program of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts for fourteen years.

Each Scholar is asked to nominate a teacher who most inspired and guided him or her to be designated by the U.S. Department of Education as a Distinguished Teacher. The teachers are recognized for their contributions to achieving excellence in education.

The Commission invites the Scholars to be honored for their accomplishments during the Presidential Scholars National Recognition Week, held in Washington, DC in June. The highlight of National Recognition Week is a ceremony sponsored by the White House at which time the Scholars are awarded the Presidential Scholars Medallion to commemorate their achievement.

1964 was the first recognition year — the Scholars were treated to seminars with Secretary of State Dan Rusk, Astronaut Alan B. Sheppard, and Chief Justice Earl Warren. President Johnson challenged the Scholars to give their talents and time "in our land and in all lands to cleaning away the blight, to sweeping away the shoddiness, to wiping away the injustices and inequities of the past so that all men may live together in a great world community of decency and excellence."

In 1969, under President Nixon, the Medallion design became the Great Seal of the Nation and the National Teacher of the Year was invited to become a commissioner in 1972. The nation was embroiled in policy issues and the Scholars reflected that mood; forum with key government officials continued.

Under President Ford, Alumni Scholars were invited to serve as Advisors to the Program. A booklet of Scholars' essays on issues facing the nation was issued by the Joint Commission on Arrangements for the Bicentennial, in 1976.

President Carter expanded the Program in 1980 to recognize artistic talent. A compendium of Scholars' essays, poems, and musical compositions was published that year, following a performance by the Scholars in the National Academy of Sciences auditorium.

During President Reagan's tenure, the selection process was refined to emphasize the key elements of leadership and community service. The Horace Mann Learning Center produced a collection of Scholars' essays on ways to improve the nation's education system. In 1981, the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts was created to conduct the arts talent search. The Distinguished Teachers awards were created, and the twentieth year celebration included an Alumni reunion and a performance by the Scholars at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

President Bush continued the Program as an opportunity to recognize the outstanding talents of American youth.

President Clinton has reconfirmed the importance of the Program by charging the Commission with increasing the public awareness of the Program, increasing the service opportunities for Alumni Scholars, and making National Recognition Week the chance of a lifetime for graduating high school students to meet, to exchange ideas on issues of importance, to establish lifelong friendships, and to be inspired to a lifetime of leadership and creativity. The Presidential Scholars Program is the pinnacle of achievement in Goals 2000.

*"Today I think we should reflect upon the God-given potential of all of our young people in this country and the importance that the rest of us must attach to providing the greatest education we possibly can, not only to those of you who have been outstanding always and who have won this extraordinary recognition, but to all of the people in this society on whom the rest of us will depend to maintain America's leadership."*

President Bill Clinton  
July 1, 1994  
1994 Presidential Scholars Awards Ceremony  
Washington, DC

# PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS AT WORK IN THE COMMUNITY...

*Characterized by their interest in community issues and compassion for those in need, the Presidential Scholars have actively reached out to others. Service has played a significant role in their development and is prominent in their future plans.*

"On a sunny August morning, I stood in front of the library with my mouth wide open. In my hand, I held the GED results of a thirty-year-old man I had been tutoring that summer. On this, his fourth try, he had passed....His example became a challenge to me, who had always had it so easy. When he passed, he earned not only a degree but self-respect and a whole new world of possibilities. And I earned the satisfaction of knowing that I had made a difference — not in my grades or my chances for college admission, but in the life of another person."

— Lindsey Rinder

"My work in the emergency room [of Saint Francis Hospital] has reaffirmed my dream of becoming a physician. I have seen the young and the old, the sick and the healthy, the weak and the strong leave the emergency room better because of the people who work there. I have seen caring people labor long hours to make people whole again. One day, I will be one of those people. I will be a physician. There is nothing else I want to do with my life."

— Barbara Eisenberg

"I went to Paraguay with the *Amigos* program after nine months of three-hour weekly training sessions....While we were giving immunizations against measles, tetanus, polio, and DPT, my partners and I were also teaching about AIDS in the local high schools. We also handed out toothbrushes, which were appreciated by the children, and gave flouride treatments, which were not. We left the city of Piribebuy with 2500 immunizations, 1000 toothbrushes, and a heightened awareness of AIDS."

— Jocelyn Wiener

"When I first met Hanya, she had no textbooks and spent her days coloring pictures. Appalled by such idleness, I vowed to help the immigrant girl overcome her disadvantage. Though we initially relied on her pocket translator to communicate, we conversed well enough for me to see the intelligent girl behind the broken English. With a grammar book and *Aesop's Fables*, we practiced reading and speaking skills....Helping her assimilate into her new environment granted me a deep satisfaction, for I truly value the privilege of having played a role in her significant modification of tongue and tradition."

— Abigail Hing

- Beau Bauman founded the first "Safe Rides" program on Long Island to combat drunk driving.
- Keely Burke has served as a puppeteer volunteer for the Epilepsy Association of Vermont.
- Rebecca Cary planned and presented Scouting programs at the Central North Carolina School for the Deaf.
- Jared Kesselheim has served as a physician's assistant in Philadelphia's Childrens Hospital's Homeless Health Program.
- Molly Maxwell has been involved in a project called "Safe Space" which works to prevent abusive relationships.

*Community service involvement has also included:*

AIDS Awareness Activities  
Big Brothers/Big Sisters  
Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts  
Candy Striping  
Church Volunteer Work  
Drug Abuse Resistance Education Programs  
Emergency Medical Services  
Habitat for Humanity  
Historical Society/Museum Volunteer Work  
Multicultural Awareness Projects  
Nursing Home Volunteer Work  
Peer/Youth Tutoring  
Red Cross Volunteer Work  
Soup Kitchen Assistance  
Special Olympics Coaching  
Sunday School Teaching

## WHITE HOUSE COMMISSION ON PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

One minute overview to be incorporated, if possible, into Presidential Remarks at White House Lawn Ceremony on June 21, 1995. Prepared by Barbara S. Holt, Managing Chair.

The Presidential Scholars gathered here **today represent outstanding achievement in scholarship, service, leadership and creativity.** These young students are **models** of the often untold "success stories" in today's educational system. Sometimes against great adversity, these Presidential Scholars have given enormous time and dedication to educational, community, and artistic goals-all at a tender age.

As we know, teachers make an significant contribution to providing the fuel to keep students "on-fire" as they progress in their educational opportunities. We can all remember a teacher in our lives who gave us the reason to take the next step, meet the next challenge, stretch beyond known abilities. Today, **each scholar has brought a distinguished teacher** from his or her past to be here in Washington during the scholars' National Recognition Week. **Thank you for the contributions each of you have made to the lives of thousands of students across this country.** We should all remember that the young scholars gathered here today **represent only a fraction** of those who are excelling in academics and the arts in America today. The distinguished teachers with us today are **representative of thousands of teachers** who each day, light the spark that keeps our children energized and motivated. Let us celebrate today the "**good news**" about our educational system in America and **honor the thousands of untold successes** in our schools.

The White House Commission on Presidential Scholars has the arduous task of annually selecting the 141 scholars. It is through the involvement of the Commissioners, the leadership provided by the Commission's Executive Committee, the financial support of the Presidential Scholars Foundation and its donors (General Motors, Saturn Corporation, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, American Association of Gifted Children, U.S. West Foundation, The National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers), the partnership with the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts, and the dedication of the staff and program advisors, that the Presidential Scholars Program continues to **grow and strengthen** its role in the recognition of excellence in the American Educational system.

Presidential Scholars From the State of Arkansas

**GITANA D. CHUNYO- 20S**

*Little Rock, AR*

*Pulaski Academy*

Active in the ecology club, the school newspaper, and the literary magazine at Pulaski Academy in Little Rock, Arkansas, Gitana Chunyo still finds time to dance, sing, look for ladybugs and tell jokes. She enjoys reading and teaching her younger brother to do the same. The place in her community where Gitana spends the most time is her dance academy where she teaches younger dancers and performs as a senior member of the academy. Gitana also volunteers at soup kitchens and provides voice for radio advertisements. She plans to attend Brown University in the fall.

**BRENT RAGAR - 97S**

*Cabot, AR*

*Cabot High School*

I have received the Sturgie Fellowship to the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. I also have been honored as an Arkansas Governor's Scholar. I have been captain of my school's quiz bowl team for the last three years. I been a member of eight all-tournament teams, and participated in the national quiz bowl tournament in Chicago. Academic pursuits aside, I have lettered the past three years on my varsity football team. I also enjoy rollerblading, making movies with my friends, and collecting Star Wars memorabilia.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
COMMISSION ON PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS  
600 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE, SW  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202-3500

## THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

### FACT SHEET

The United States Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964, by Executive Order of the President, to recognize and honor our Nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. In 1979, the Program was extended to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, creative, and performing arts. Each year, up to 141 students are named as Presidential Scholars, one of the Nation's highest honors for high school students. The Scholars are chosen on the basis of their accomplishments in many areas--academic and artistic success, leadership, and involvement in school and the community. The Scholars represent excellence in education and the promise of greatness in young people. In honoring the Presidential Scholars, the President of the United States symbolically honors all graduating high school seniors of high potential.

The Commission on Presidential Scholars is a group of eminent private citizens appointed by the President to select and honor the Presidential Scholars. The Commission members receive no monetary compensation for their participation. The final selection of Scholars rests solely upon the independent judgement of the Commission. The U.S. Department of Education provides administrative support and helps the Commission fulfill its responsibilities.

There are two paths of accomplishment toward earning the honor of Presidential Scholar. The greater number of students (up to 121) are chosen on the basis of broad academic achievement. A smaller number of students (up to 20) are selected on the basis of their academic and artistic scholarship in visual arts, performing arts, or creative writing. *Students may not apply individually to the Program, nor may their schools nominate them.*

For the academic component of the 1995 Program, all high school seniors who are citizens of the United States are automatically considered for participation if, on or before November 1994, they have scored exceptionally well on either the SAT of the College Board or the ACT Assessment of the American College Testing Program and did not request that their scores remain private. Approximately 2,600 students are selected as Candidates and receive an invitation to participate.

To be considered further, candidates must submit candidacy materials, including essays, self-assessments, secondary school reports, and transcripts. In late March, 500 semifinalists are chosen by an independent, national committee of educators convened by the Commission on Presidential Scholars.

For the arts component of the Program, a group of selected students who participate in the Arts Recognition and Talent Search (ARTS), a national program for identification and recognition of young people who have demonstrated excellence in the arts, are identified for consideration by the Commission. (ARTS is a program of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts, which is based in Miami, Florida.) The semifinalists are asked to affirm their candidacy by submitting supporting materials.

In April, the Commission selects up to 141 Presidential Scholars. One young man and one young woman are chosen from each state, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and from families of U.S. citizens living abroad. In addition, up to 15 students are chosen at large, and up to 20 students are chosen from among the ARTS awardees. Commissioners consider community activities and leadership qualities in selecting all students named as Presidential Scholars.

In April, the President of the United States notifies, by mail, all Presidential Scholars of their selection. Because the Presidential Scholars Program is a recognition program, there is no monetary award.

The Commission invites the Scholars to be honored for their accomplishments during the Presidential Scholars National Recognition Week, held in Washington, D.C., in June. As guests of the Commission, the Scholars meet with government officials, educators, authors, musicians, scientists, and other accomplished persons. They visit the museums and monuments of the Nation's capital and attend recitals, receptions, and ceremonies in their honor. National Recognition Week culminates with a ceremony sponsored by the White House. At this ceremony, the Scholars are awarded the Presidential Scholars medallion to commemorate their achievement.

The Scholars identify the educators who have influenced them the most, and these educators are designated as Distinguished Teachers. The teachers are presented with the Presidential Scholars Distinguished Teachers plaque, and they are honored at a special reception.

During the past 30 years, this unique federal program has honored nearly 3,700 Presidential Scholars. All these distinguished young people have demonstrated leadership, scholarship, contribution to school and community, and accomplishments in the arts, sciences, or other fields. The work of the Commission on Presidential Scholars reaffirms, on behalf of the President, the Nation's commitment to education that enables people to lead lives of challenge, accomplishment, and fulfillment.

For additional information, contact the Presidential Scholars Program at (202) 401-0961.

# The Washington Post

Sunday, November 28, 1993



BY ANNALISA KRAFI — THE WASHINGTON POST

David S. Broder

## The Hine Junior High Example

Secretary Riley finds the right forum for his message.

Bill Clinton never promised to be "the education president," as his predecessor did. But there was every reason from his history to expect that education would be a keystone of his program. It had been his passion and almost his obsession during the decade he was governor of Arkansas.

It's turned out that other things have pre-empted his attention this first year—the budget, Bosnia, NAFTA, health care etc. Clinton has launched several school initiatives, but probably the best thing the president has done for education is to pick his old friend, former South Carolina governor Richard Riley, as the secretary of education.

Riley is one of the most decent and honorable people in public life. He has little of the showmanship of his predecessor, former Tennessee governor Lamar Alexander. But Riley's sincerity and commitment to schools made a difference in his home state—where he led the fight to keep schools open during the battles over busing and launched the drive to improve their quality. He will make a difference here as well.

The other morning, I went out to see Secretary Riley at Hine Junior High School, seven blocks from the Capitol, where he met with students and teachers and made a talk about a newly released report on America's young people.

Hine Junior High has been a shining example of excellence in a generally beleaguered school system. Between the time Riley's visit was scheduled and his actual appearance, Hine became even more famous for its outspoken principal, Princess Whitfield.

Angry because the slow-poke District of Columbia school bureaucracy would

not assign the four extra teachers needed to meet the increased enrollment in her magnet school, Whitfield went on the warpath and took her demands to the public. By the time Riley got there, two of the extra teachers were at work—and Whitfield was telling anyone who would listen that "no one is going to stop me. One way or another, I'm going to get this done."

With its palpable school pride and its pushy, no-compromise-with-quality principal, Hine proved to be the perfect setting for Riley to tell the country about a "revolution of rising expectations" that has not been widely noted. Among the scores of rural

*"...the public schools have a chance to meet the rising expectations of this latest generation of Americans. Nothing is more important than their success."*

trends—many of them negative—reported in the study he was releasing, "Youth Indicators 1993," the most hopeful, he said, is that "the education aspirations of our young people have jumped enormously in the last 10 years."

In 1980 a Department of Education survey showed more high school sophomores planned to end the schooling with a high school diploma—or less—than were aiming as a bachelor's degree. A similar question in 1990 showed more than three times as many said their goal was a bachelor's degree than said completing high school was their aim. The evidence in the report suggests this is not just talk. Many more are enrolled in academic college preparatory tracks than a decade earlier. More are participating in after-

school academic clubs, fewer in cheerleading, athletics and similar activities.

The upward shift was particularly dramatic

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among black students surveyed, and that was certainly true of many of the youngsters in Riley's audience at Hine. Eighth-grader Gregory Stevens said he would "most definitely go college" to pursue his interest in art and music. Classmate Angela Bennett was even more specific: "I plan to go UDC [the University of the District of Columbia] and then to law school. I want to be a criminal lawyer, so I can help people and see that they get their rights."

That such students should be stuck in classrooms with 35 or more pupils because the District school bureaucracy cannot get teachers to the schools where they are needed is almost criminal. But the larger point that Riley made is that now that large majorities of our young people understand that they need more education in order to earn decent wages and lead good lives, this society simply cannot fall them.

The PTA mothers who met with Riley put the demand in specific terms, telling Riley what Hine needs locally to make it "stand out even more," as one of them put it. He responded in general terms, talking about the legislative agenda that next year will be full of bills to improve federal school aid to needy children, to set national standards for education performance and to ease the transition from school to work—all projects he has helped launch this year.

And then he spoke about the faith that he and President Clinton share with millions of other Americans. "Public education," Riley said, "is the bedrock of our free enterprise system and our democratic rights. It is the one American institution that has done more than any other to give each generation, and new immigrants as well, the leg up in life they need to get ahead."

With principals as uncompromising as Princess Whitfield and an education secretary as committed as Dick Riley, the public schools have a chance to meet the rising expectations of this latest generation of Americans. Nothing is more important than their success.

## Riley

Dick Riley has been described by political reporter David Broder of the Washington Post as one the "most decent and honorable people in public life." That is a powerful statement because it is a very true statement. I have known the Secretary for a great many years. We have served together on many commissions including the Southern Regional Education Board which began the push years ago to restore excellence to American education. The Secretary is not only decent and honorable he also sincere, dedicated to education and a person with a wealth of stories about life -- often funny -- that have moral tale to them.

**1995 National Recognition Week****Tuesday, June 20**

- 9:00am - 9:00pm **Arrival and Registration**  
Thurston Hall, George Washington University  
1900 F Street, NW
- 4:30pm - 5:30pm **Scholar Orientation**  
**Thurston Hall Cafe**  
(Scholars, Advisors)
- 7:30pm - 8:00pm **Satellite Town Meeting Reception**  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
1615 H Street, NW  
(Commissioners, PSF, Donors, Sponsors)
- 8:30pm - 9:30pm **Satellite Town Meeting** (Monthly satellite broadcast hosted by Secretary Riley and Deputy Secretary Kunin -- Topic: "Learning to Read: Community Strategies for Creating More Literate Students and Adults")  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H Street, NW  
(Scholars, Advisors, Commissioners, PSF, Donors, Sponsors)

**Wednesday, June 21**

- 8:00am - 10:00am **Parent/Teacher Late Registration**
- 8:30am - 9:45am **Scholar-Commissioner Breakfast**  
Marvin Center Dining Hall, GWU  
800 21st Street, NW  
(Scholars, Advisors, Commissioners, PSF)
- 11:30am - 1:30pm **Medallion Ceremony**  
White House South Lawn  
(Scholars, Advisors, Commissioners, PSF, NFAA, Donors, Sponsors, Parents, Teachers, Guests)
- 2:00pm - 5:00pm **Congressional Visits**  
Capitol Hill  
(Scholars, Teachers, Parents, Commissioners)
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm **"A Salute to 1995 Presidential Scholars"**  
Kennedy Center  
(Scholars, Advisors, Commissioners, PSF, NFAA, Donors, Sponsors, Parents, Teachers, Guests)