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### **Chadron and Alliance high students are GMS scholarship winners**

By: John Thayer Posted at: 05/07/2012 08:34 AM

FAIRFAX, VA – The Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) Program – one of 400 scholarships administered by UNCF (United Negro College Fund) – announced today the selection of this year's cohort of 1,000 new students. The GMS Program will award the Class of 2012 Gates Millennium Scholars good-through-graduation scholarships which can be used to pursue degrees in any undergraduate major at the accredited college or university of the recipients' choice.

This year's cohort represents 47 states, the District of Columbia, the Marshall Islands and four U.S. territories: Federated States of Micronesia, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and will be attending 348 colleges and universities. Current Gates Scholars attend a total of 723 colleges and universities across the country.

Established in 1999 with the goal of developing Leaders for America's Future™, the UNCF Gates Millennium Scholars Program is funded by a \$1.6 billion grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. To date, over 16,000 students have received GMS scholarships, attending more than 1,500 schools, including Ivy League colleges, flagship state universities, UNCF member institutions and other minority serving institutions.

The GMS Program provides recipients with leadership development opportunities, mentoring, academic and social support as well as financial support. The Program is known for its recipients' high graduation rates – a six-year rate of 90 percent (45 percent higher than the national graduation rates for all students) and comparable to the rates for students from high-income families.

"Education continues to be the best pathway to opportunity, and we believe that college costs should not be an obstacle along that path," said Jim Larimore the deputy director for student success at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. "That's why scholarships like the Gates Millennium Scholars Program and others are so important. Scholarships provide students who have the will to get a postsecondary education with a way to get one, thereby securing a better future for themselves, their families and their communities."

UNCF has partnered with the American Indian Graduate Center Scholars (AIGCS), the Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF) and the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APAISF) to select and provide service to Gates Millennium Scholars.

"For the 20,000 young men and women who will attend college as Gates Millennium Scholars, the financial support, leadership training, mentoring and academic and social support they receive will enable them to become the next generation of college graduates and leaders the U.S. needs to

remain competitive in the global economy," said Michael L.

Lomax, Ph.D., UNCF President and CEO. "We are grateful for The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's support of the Gates Millennium Scholars Program because it is not only an investment in the futures of these students, but also in the country's economic and social strength and competitiveness."

For more information about GMS and a list of the Class of 2012 Gates Millennium Scholars, visit [www.gmsp.org](http://www.gmsp.org).

#### About GMS

The Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) Program, funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, was established in 1999 to provide outstanding low income African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American, and Hispanic American students with an

opportunity to complete an undergraduate college education in any discipline they choose. Continuing Gates Scholars may request funding for a graduate degree program in one of the following discipline areas: computer science, education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health or science. The goal of GMS is to promote academic excellence by providing thousands of outstanding students, who have significant financial need, the opportunity to reach their full potential.

For a complete list of scholarship winners by state, [click here](#).

#### About UNCF

UNCF (United Negro College Fund) is the nation's largest and most effective minority education organization. To serve youth, the community and the nation, UNCF supports students' education and development through scholarships and other programs, strengthens its 38 member colleges and universities, and advocates for the importance of college readiness and minority education. UNCF institutions and other historically black colleges and universities are highly effective, awarding 21 percent of African American baccalaureate degrees. UNCF administers more than 400 programs, including scholarship, internship and fellowship, mentoring, summer enrichment, and curriculum and faculty development programs. Today, UNCF supports more than 60,000 students at over 900 colleges and universities across the country. Its logo features the UNCF torch of leadership in education and its widely recognized motto, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste."® Learn more at [www.UNCF.org](http://www.UNCF.org).