



2010 Scholarship Recipients (10 Awarded)



Brooke Borowski
Notre Dame Preparatory
School

As a student of Notre Dame Preparatory School in Pontiac, Brooke Borowski has volunteered at Trinity Soup Kitchen, Capuchin Fundraisers, The Miracle Buddy League and the St. Lawrence School while maintaining a 3.86 grade point average. She comes recommended as a “seek out” candidate by her teacher/recommender who describes her as “motivated, helpful to other students and eager to volunteer”. “Brooke sets challenging goals for herself, takes rigorous classes and is involved in clubs such as the Spanish Honors Society” he states. Brooke is the captain of the volleyball, basketball and golf teams at Notre Dame and is “highly respected by both her teachers and classmates”. She cites her grandmother as her role model in her essay on Hispanic heritage. “My abuela (grandmother) raised eight children. Even with two jobs and the keeping of a home, she made time to attend school meetings and sporting events and did it all with just a 6th grade education”. “All eight of her children have a high school diploma and some of them even have a college degree” she notes. In the fall of 2001, Brooke plans on attending Hillsdale College entering the pre-med program. Her long term career goal is to become a pediatric oncologist.



Sandra Bustos
L'Anse Creuse High School
North

“My father is the type of father any girl would be lucky to have” Sandra Bustos says in her essay on how her Hispanic Heritage has influenced her. Mr. Bustos brought his pregnant wife across the border 18 years ago to build a better life for his family and his yet to be born first child, Sandra. “Even though he arrived in the U. S. with only one hundred dollars in his pocket, he believed he could do anything” she says. His drive and tenacity inspires Ms. Bustos to work hard and achieve her goals. Sandra points to her first three years in elementary school as her most difficult academic challenge. Growing up speaking Spanish at home, she had to work very hard to understand English and the school work. As a result, she understands the frustration others feel when they are not fluent in English and gives freely of her time to help. Sandra helps her family and others in her community by volunteering to translate for them to doctors, on job applications and in school. She tutors her younger brother with the challenges of learning English as a second language and volunteers at her church weekly. Her recommender cites Sandra’s desire to give back to her community as one of her strong characteristics, “she is a quiet leader who leads by example and is a true role model to Hispanic and non-Hispanic students”. Sandra hopes to attend Wayne State University to study nursing next fall.



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Efrain Galindo, Jr.
Pontiac High School

A senior at Pontiac High School, Efrain Galindo carries a 3.91 cumulative GPA while working 20 hours per week. He is a member of the National Honors Society, a second lieutenant in the Army JROTC and has volunteered with Build On among other community service efforts. His junior year at Pontiac he earned a GPA of over 4.1 while taking mostly honors courses and still kept up an admirable community service record including stints at Gleaners Food Bank. While neither of Efrain's parents completed middle school they have influenced him to be the best he can be. He cites his mother as his biggest influence, prodding him to "aim high" and helping keep him focused on his long term goals. "She always made straight A's when she was in school and this pushes me to be like her throughout my education. I will go to college and excel for both of us and make her proud" he states in his essay on heritage. His goal is to attend Oakland University and work toward a career as a vascular surgeon. Efrain's biggest academic challenge came early, in second and third grade. Having spent the previous 5 years in Mexico his first language was Spanish. Moving back to Michigan and entering the Waterford Schools he was unable to comprehend what was being said in class. He had to seek out help from bilingual friends yet was concerned he annoyed them with constant questions. Once he entered an English Secondary Language (ESL) class, he quickly began to pick up English and do well in his studies. "After going through that whole ordeal, I try to help out others whenever I can. I understand how it feels to feel like an outsider" he says.



Jazzmin Mileyty
Western International
High School

One of four Western International High School seniors chosen this year, Jazzmin Mileyty would like to pursue a career in nursing. Her community service record includes many hours with Urban Neighborhood Initiatives as a teacher's aide, time spent tutoring with Harms Homework Help and this past summer working as an intern with Detroit World Outreach. In addition, she participates in her church drama club where she helps with holiday plays and various skits. Jazzmin credits her Hispanic heritage for molding her into the person she is today. She points to her parents "unbreakable drive" which helped bring her family through tough times when bills could not be paid and utilities were cut off as an inspiration which kept her from giving up when she encountered difficult situations. "Typical Hispanic girls my age are expected to get pregnant, join a gang or drop out of school. At a young age I came to understand I must work hard for success. With an unstoppable drive to keep going with my academic career I am focused on the prize". Jazzmin's recommender describes her as well balanced between academics and extracurricular activities and a star student in English Language Arts. She carries a 2.91 GPA with several honors and AP classes on her resume.



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Anna Montano
Cesar Chavez Academy

Anna Montano would like to pursue a career in Veterinary Medicine. She has her sights on Saginaw Valley State University for next fall. Anna was raised in Southwest Detroit and attends Cesar Chavez Academy where she is involved with after school sports and fundraisers to support her school. She carries a 3.31 GPA with numerous honors classes on her transcript. Anna's parents were not able to finish high school but have pushed Anna and her siblings to be sure they get their diploma and have opportunities they did not have. Anna's role model is her mother. "My mom encourages me every day to do my best and be the best I can be" she says. The results are evident as Anna is a member of the National Honor Society, keeps her grades up while giving back to the community through her membership in an organization called the "Ladies Club" at Cesar Chavez. "This club teaches young girls how to have a safe relationship and when to say no" says Anna. She has been a member since eighth grade when her older sister became a member. "I love volunteering for this program because I love to help younger students" she states "I hope they take the advice I've given them and use it to help other younger girls".



Angelizmar Rodriquez
Western International
High School

Angelizmar Rodriguez attends Western International School in Southwest Detroit. Her recommender rates her a "seek out" candidate for this scholarship describing her as "an exceptional student who will do well at any University". She is a member of the National Honors Society and carries a 3.88 GPA with numerous AP classes on her transcript. Ms. Rodriguez would like to attend the University of Michigan next fall and pursue a career in nursing. She has been a long time volunteer at Logan Elementary because she feels she "can be a positive example" to the younger students. "I contribute to my community by being one less. I am one less criminal. I am one less drop out. I am one less teen mother. I am one less negative statistic." Her biggest academic challenge came when she found herself enrolled in three AP courses in the same semester. Realizing only two were recommended she considered dropping AP Chemistry. "I absolutely could not bring myself to do it" she says. Working every day, weekends and vacation periods to master the workload she passed up numerous opportunities to spend time with friends and family but she achieved a 4.5 GPA that year. She summarizes the experience saying "Not only did I learn the subjects but I learned something about myself. I found that with dedication I can achieve success."



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Alejandra Roel
Western International
High School

In her essay on community service Alejandra Roel explains “When it comes to community service my favorite area to contribute to is education”. “When I tutor I love the fact that I see the progress happen right before my eyes.” One of the students Alejandra has worked with for four years has entered the honors program at his school evidence of her capacity to effect change through her hard work and dedication. Ms. Roel carries a 3.75 GPA at Western International High School in Southwest Detroit. She describes her academic challenge coming primarily from the difficult teaching environment in the Detroit Public Schools. “The chaos of an inner city public school brings forth countless academic struggles ranging from distractions in the classroom to lack of books. Sometimes all one can really do is work with what you’re given and make the absolute best out of it. I’ve learned from my experiences that it is imperative to be realistic and optimistic when faced with challenges that are out of your hands.” Like many of our scholars Alejandra points to the strength and persistence of her parents as the driving force behind her success. Her father with only a second grade education and mother who went to work before entering ninth grade supported education “like they are college professors themselves”. Alejandra’s goal is to major in Business at the University of Michigan next fall.



Francisco Ruiz
Western International
High School

Rated a “seek out” candidate by his recommender Francisco Ruiz attends Western International High School. He carries a 2.77 GPA with numerous honors and AP classes on his transcript. As a volunteer, planting trees, cleaning parks, cleaning empty lots and spreading awareness to the community about the importance of literacy Francisco has a true passion to make a difference to Detroit and Michigan. He has worked as a volunteer with Build On, the Matrix Theater Company and Real Media. He cites Mother Teresa as a major influence in his life. “It isn’t so much the nature of her work that inspires me, but the way she helped the people; others were too afraid to help. That’s what I want to do with my life, change lives” he says. The Real Media coordinator acting as Francisco’s recommender describes him as “very artistic and talented”. “He has taken a strong leadership role with other youth in the program and has helped me to plan my after school program for two years”. Francisco cites the difficulties of learning in the cash strapped Detroit School system as a major challenge he has had to overcome. “Studying is very difficult when the only text books are one set shared by many classes. I must rely on my notes alone to study” he says. Mr. Ruiz would like to attend Central Michigan University in the fall of 2011 and major in Psychology.



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Veronica Sanchez
Cesar Chavez Academy

A senior at Cesar Chavez Academy, Veronica Sanchez has been a four year starter on the school soccer team. Still she makes time to volunteer for community service roles such as working at a local soup kitchen, cleaning the home of an elderly neighbor this summer and wrapping Christmas trees to support an auction. Neither of Veronica's parents graduated from high school and she draws from the hardship they have experienced to help her set goals and keep her motivated. Her plan is to attend Wayne State University and work toward a career in Veterinary Medicine. Her recommender form notes that Veronica has chosen high level courses all four years of high school and currently ranks 25th in her class. "She is not afraid to take leadership roles frequently taking the lead responsibility in group situations and yields outstanding results" states her former math teacher. Veronica recalls her greatest academic challenge being when her mother fell ill and was hospitalized. Missing two weeks of school to be with her mother, she fell behind and needed to dedicate herself to helping at home as well as getting back on track at school. Through hard work and dedication she managed to bring her grades to a level above where they were before the incident. She sums up the experience saying "I learned that no matter what the struggle you are going through hard work will always take you far, I have kept this lesson and experience with me to this day".



Daniel Santos
Notre Dame Preparatory
School

Daniel Santos attends Notre Dame Preparatory School in Pontiac. He carries a 3.4 grade point average, is the president of the "improve club", is a member of the school leadership commission and takes time to mentor other students that need help. He has performed over 70 hours of community service in his high school career and is involved with the wrestling, track and swim teams. Daniel's recommender rates him a "seek out" candidate for this scholarship describing him as "highly motivated, with great expectations for college". Daniel hopes to attend the University of Michigan to study communications and film. In his essay on an academic challenge he has faced, Daniel recounts his struggles with Chemistry which he overcame through a combination of early mornings in the Chemistry classroom, National Honors Society tutoring and nights of hard studying. "When I do something I really commit, I believe that my life has no limits and I can do anything that I set my mind to" he says.