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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Scotlandville Magnet HS Student Named Gates Millennium Scholar

Baton Rouge, La. – Taylar Harrison, a senior honors student attending Scotlandville Magnet High School, has been chosen by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation as a 2010 Gates Millennium Scholar. In addition, Harrison also recently received **a full scholarship to Prairie View A&M University in Houston**, where she hopes to major in Accounting and Business Management with a minor in Real Estate. She would like to become a certified public accountant.

This year, the Gates Millennium Scholars Program (GMS) attracted **more than 20,500 applicants nationally**. Harrison is one of the **1,000 Gates Millennium Scholars nationwide, and one of only 11 from Louisiana**, chosen for the GMS Class of 2010. As a Gates Millennium Scholar, GMS funds are available for her to attend any U.S.-accredited college or university of her choice.

Harrison is an exemplary student with a current grade point average (GPA) of 4.2 and a cumulative GPA of 3.7. In addition to being an academic achiever, Harrison shows great teamwork and leadership skills. She is president of the Student Government Association (SGA) and was elected by a student body of more than 1,000. She also is a member of the Service Club, Key Club, National Honor Society, the National Beta Club (treasurer) and Senior Class (parliamentarian). When not engaged in school activities, Harrison is a member of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church.

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GATES MILLENNIUM SCHOLAR/2

The United Negro College Fund (UNCF) said GMS is the nation's largest minority scholarship program, and recipients this year represent 45 states, the District of Columbia and three U.S. territories: American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The scholarships can be used to pursue degrees in any undergraduate major at the college or university of the recipients' choice.

Established in 1999 with the goal of developing the next generation of America's leaders, the Gates Millennium Scholars Program is funded by a \$1.6 billion grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. To date, more than 13,000 students have received GMS scholarships, attending more than 1,500 schools, including Ivy League colleges, flagship state universities and UNCF member historically black colleges (HBCUs).

In addition to financial assistance, Gates Millennium Scholars receive academic support, mentoring and leadership training. As a result, recipients have an average five-year graduation rate of almost 80 percent -- 45 percent higher than the six-year rate for all college students.

UNCF's management of the Gates Millennium Scholars Program is a partnership with the American Indian Graduate Center Scholars (AIGCS), the Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF) and the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF) to serve Gates Millennium Scholars in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

For more information about GMS and a list of the Class of 2010 Gates Millennium Scholars, visit www.gmsp.org.

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