



DALLAS (May 7, 2010) -- Peak Preparatory School in East Dallas hosted a college signing day Friday afternoon for all 26 members of its first graduating class. The Peak Preparatory seniors announced their future plans by donning the caps of the universities they will attend and signing letters of commitment. The students already have received \$247,500 in scholarships to help make their college plans a reality.

Peak Preparatory is operated by Uplift Education, a nationally-recognized charter school system that provides college access and success for all of its students. Twenty-three of the 26 graduating seniors will be the first in their families to attend college.

Among the schools that the students will be committing to are the Art Institute of Dallas, Austin College, Southern Methodist University, Southwestern University, Stephen F. Austin State University, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Texas Christian University, Texas Woman's University, the University of Michigan, the University of North Texas, the University of Tampa, the University of Texas at Arlington, and the University of Texas at El Paso.

The signing day fulfills Uplift Education's mission to have 100 percent of its students accepted to colleges or universities. Peak Preparatory has 881 students. Ninety-six percent of the students are minorities and 86 percent are eligible for free or reduced price lunches.

"Our schools in Texas have a longtime tradition of saluting talented high school athletes who receive scholarships to play sports in college," said Laura Cobb, Uplift Education Chief of Schools. "We are happy to see them honored. But at

our College Signing Day, we are celebrating college goers who have overcome challenges in order to excel in school. Uplift Education is very proud of their accomplishments.”

In addition to the introduction of graduates, Peak Preparatory also conducted a “passing the torch” ceremony for its kindergartners. The seniors stood in front of the kindergartners and asked them where there were going. “To college!” the kindergarten class members responded.

Peak Preparatory opened in 2004 with 57 students in grades 4 and 5 thanks to a generous \$10 million gift of land and buildings from the Communities Foundation of Texas. Peak Preparatory has grown to a full K-12 campus and was rated EXEMPLARY by the Texas Education Agency in 2009.

Uplift Education is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We are dedicated to operating schools that provide a quality education by raising and continually maintaining high expectations for students and staff. Uplift schools provide a rigorous, multi-disciplinary curriculum, with an emphasis on college preparation. Uplift currently operates five campuses in Dallas, Irving and Arlington: Hampton Preparatory, North Hills Preparatory, Peak Preparatory, Summit International Preparatory and Williams Preparatory. In 2010, Uplift will open two new campuses – Heights Preparatory in West Dallas and Laureate Preparatory, an Uplift Education museum school, in Downtown Dallas. It is Uplift’s goal to dramatically increase the number of students from all backgrounds who are provided a high quality public education. For more information, visit <http://www.uplifteducation.org>.

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