



For Immediate Release

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**SHAWN STOVER PLEDGES TO CONTINUE NORTH HILLS PREP'S REPUTATION OF
ACADEMIC RIGOR AND COLLEGE SUCCESS**

Uplift Education's Irving campus again ranked Exemplary and in the top 20 high schools in the nation

DALLAS, Texas (August 12, 2010)—North Hills Prep, the public charter school operated by Uplift Education in Irving, once again received Exemplary marks across the board under the Texas Education Agency's 2010 Accountability Ratings. This marks the second year in a row that North Hills Prep has received Exemplary ratings across its primary, middle and high schools. The school ratings are based on TAKS results from the 2009-2010 school year. North Hills Prep surpassed the State's Commended rates on all 27 TAKS subject-grade combinations – most in excess of 20 points. On 4th grade Math for example, North Hills Prep exceeded the State's Commended rate by a meaningful 52 points. The Commended status is considered a better indicator of college-readiness than simply passing TAKS.

North Hills Prep was also recently named as the 14th best public high school in America by *Newsweek*. This marked its fifth consecutive year in the top 20 – a prestigious commendation shared by few others. The high marks reflect Uplift Education's belief that all students can benefit from a rigorous, college preparatory education incorporating International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced Placement (AP) classes. The list is compiled by a Challenge Index – the total number of AP, IB or Cambridge tests given at a school each year divided by the number of graduating seniors. North Hills Prep's Challenge Index was 7.831, with 94.3 percent of seniors passing an AP or IB test.

To continue the school's nationally-recognized success, Uplift Education has brought in Shawn Stover as senior director of North Hills Prep. Stover comes to North Hills Prep from Teach for America, where he oversaw the teacher support and development program for the organization's corps members nationwide. He also has 11 years of experience in principal and assistant principal roles. Stover holds a Master's in School Administration and Curriculum Supervision from East Carolina University and a Bachelor's in Economics from University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill.

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“Honors like these are a testament to Uplift Education’s driving force – college access and success for all students – as well as the relentless effort our students, staff, and parents to ensure each North Hills Prep student has a world class education,” said Stover. “As senior director, I will continue to emphasize the high expectations and rigor that have made North Hills Prep one of the best schools in the nation, one that develops students who outperform their peers across the board.”

As they head back to school on August 12, North Hills Prep students have the bar set high for them to continue to achieve academic excellence. The schools endless list of accomplishments include:

- 100% of its seniors have graduated AND been accepted into colleges and universities.
- The 2010 senior class earned more than \$5 million in scholarship awards.
- The 2010 senior class included two National Merit Semifinalists, three commended scholars, and one National Hispanic Recognized Scholar.
- 97% of IB Diploma candidates have received the IB Diploma (vs. 67% statewide).
- Three semifinalists and one finalist in the 2010 Dell Scholars program (\$20,000 scholarship).
- 52 seventh graders identified for the 2010 Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP) – with 26 State Recognitions and two Grand Recognitions.
- 2009 College Readiness Award from ACT, Inc. Southwest Region.
- Alumni at leading universities nationwide including Auburn, Boston University, Carnegie Mellon University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Emory University, Loyola, NYU, Oklahoma State University, Pepperdine, Purdue, SMU, Texas A&M University, TCU, Texas Tech, The University of Alabama, The University of Oklahoma, and The University of Texas.

The oldest of Uplift Education’s campuses, North Hills Prep is also currently awaiting authorization of its International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme. Once approved, the school will offer IB program throughout its K-12 classrooms. The campus has been authorized to offer the IB Primary Years Programme since July 2007 and the IB Diploma Programme since July 2003.

For more information about North Hills Prep or Uplift Education, visit www.uplifteducation.org.

About Uplift Education

Uplift Education is dedicated to operating schools that provide a quality education by raising and continually maintaining high expectations for students and staff. Our schools provide a rigorous, multi-disciplinary curriculum, with an emphasis on college preparation. It is Uplift's goal to dramatically

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increase the number of students from all backgrounds who are provided a high quality public education – 100% of seniors graduate and are accepted to college. Uplift Education is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Uplift educates 4,600 students on seven campuses: Hampton Preparatory (South Dallas), Heights Preparatory (West Dallas), Laureate Preparatory (Downtown Dallas), North Hills Preparatory (Irving), Peak Preparatory (East Dallas), Summit International Preparatory (Arlington) and Williams Preparatory (Northwest Dallas). Under the 2010 accountability ratings, 97% of Uplift's students attend a school that has received one of Texas' two highest ratings, with 88% attending top-rated Exemplary schools and 9% attending schools rated as Recognized. For more information, visit <http://www.uplifteducation.org>.