



For Immediate Release

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Six Uplift seniors receive \$20,000 scholarships from The Michael & Susan Dell Foundation *One Dell Scholar also has received a prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship*

DALLAS (May 12) – Six Uplift Education seniors have been named to the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation’s Dell Scholars Program, each receiving a \$20,000 scholarship. In addition, one of the Dell Scholars, Noe Nunez, a senior at Peak Preparatory School, has received a prestigious Gates Millennium scholarship. Nunez is one of only 1,000 students nationwide who have been named Gates Millennium Scholars out of more than 23,000 who applied.

Gates Millennium Scholars receive a good-through-graduation scholarship to attend the college or university of their choice, along with academic support throughout their college careers. The goal of the Gates Millennium Scholars program is to promote academic excellence and provide an opportunity for outstanding minority students with significant financial needs to reach their highest potential.

The Dell Scholars Program has awarded \$6 million in college scholarship funds to 300 students this year. Despite having only 200 seniors across the Uplift Education network, the Dallas-based charter school operator ranked as one of the highest number of Dell Scholars from a single school system. By comparison, there were only nine Dell Scholars from all the comprehensive and magnet high schools within the three public school districts where Uplift’s schools operate.

The Gates Millennium Scholars program reduces financial barriers for minorities with high academic and leadership promise, increases representation of minority groups in disciplines of education where they are severely underrepresented and provides seamless support from undergraduate to doctoral programs for those selected. The program was established in 1999 and initially funded by a \$1 billion grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Uplift Education Dell Scholars

- **Xochil Guerrero** (Peak Prep): Plan to attend Boston College, also accepted to Agnes Scott College, Austin College, Babson College, Emerson College, and Southern Methodist University. Awarded \$532,984 in scholarships and grants.
- **Noe Nunez** (Peak Prep): Plans to attend Vanderbilt University, also accepted to Austin College, Brandeis, Colgate, Emory, Middlebury, Southwestern University, and St. Edward’s University. Awarded \$1,142,604 in scholarships and grants.
- **Ricardo Morales** (Summit International Prep): Accepted to American University, Boston College, Emory University, Pomona College, Rockhurst University, St. John’s University – Manhattan, Syracuse University, Vassar College, and Wesleyan University. Awarded \$1,501,052 in scholarships and grants.

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- **Janelle Mogendi** (Summit International Prep): Accepted to Angelo State University, University of North Texas – Dallas, Prairie View A&M, Texas Woman’s University, and Tyler Junior College. Awarded \$47,800 in scholarships and grants.
- **Ruben Mendoza** (Williams Prep): Accepted to University of Mississippi and University of Utah. Awarded \$21,000 in scholarships.
- **Alma Rodriguez** (Williams Prep): Accepted to Agnes Scott College, Austin College, Baylor University, Mount Holyoke College, University of North Texas – Dallas, Texas Christian University, and The University of Texas at Arlington. Awarded \$196,000 in scholarships.

Much more than just a check, the Dell Scholars Program targets low-income students in the academic middle and is the first of its kind to include wraparound services that help scholars and their families deal with personal problems – such as financial, legal and personal relationship issues – that might adversely affect their ability to graduate.

As the price of paying for college continues to rise, an estimated 3.2 million bachelor degrees will be lost this decade due to increased unmet costs for college ready students.

“We are so excited to help send these students to college and mentor them toward their end goal of a college degree,” said Oscar Sweeten-Lopez, of the Dell Scholars Program at the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation.

“We are so proud of the six Uplift seniors selected for this exciting recognition from national scholarship programs designed for a special kind of student,” said Uplift Education CEO Yasmin Bhatia. “Uplift Education is committed to continuing to have 100 percent of our seniors accepted to college, and we are thankful for programs like the Gates Millennium Scholars and Dell Scholars Program that support students’ remarkable determination to succeed and pursue a college degree to realize their goals.”

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. Uplift educates 4,600 students on seven campuses in Dallas, Arlington and Irving. Our schools provide a rigorous, multi-disciplinary curriculum, with an emphasis on college preparation. It is Uplift's goal to dramatically 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. For more information, visit <http://www.uplifteducation.org> or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/uplifteducation.

About the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation

The [Michael & Susan Dell Foundation](#) is dedicated to improving the lives of children living in urban poverty around the world. With offices in Austin, TX and New Delhi, India, and Cape Town, South Africa, the Dell family foundation funds programs that foster high-quality public education and childhood health, and improve the economic stability of families living in poverty. The foundation has committed more than \$700 million to global children’s issues and community initiatives to date. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and on [Facebook](#).

About the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. In developing countries, it focuses on improving people’s health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty. In the United States, it seeks to ensure that all people—especially those with the fewest resources -- have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life.