



For Immediate Release

Media Contacts

Britni Manry, Communications Manager
Direct | 469-621-8491 • Cell | 469-619-7156
bmanry@uplifteducation.org

Deborah Bigham, Chief Development Officer
Direct | 469-621-8493 • Cell | 469-358-6351
dbigham@uplifteducation.org

The Washington Post names Uplift Education's North Hills Preparatory and Peak Preparatory as the 10th and 11th best public high schools in America

Peak Prep breaks into The High School Challenge's prestigious Top 15 in first year of eligibility

DALLAS (May 20) – *The Washington Post* released today The 2011 High School Challenge – the annual list of America's Best Public High Schools, which was transferred to *The Washington Post* as part of its purchase of *Newsweek*. Four Dallas-area schools ranked in the list's prestigious Top 15: #1 DISD's Science/Engineering Magnet, #2 DISD's Talented and Gifted, #10 Uplift Education's North Hills Preparatory, and #11 Uplift Education's Peak Preparatory.

Unlike the majority of the schools in the top 15, Uplift's two public charter schools are open enrollment schools. They are open to students from any background and do not screen or select students based on academic achievement. Magnet schools often use academic screening and invitation-only admission.

North Hills Prep's #10 ranking marks its sixth consecutive year in the top 20 – an achievement no other school in the nation shares. While the real Cinderella story of The 2011 High School Challenge is Peak Prep's debut at #11. Last year marked Peak Prep's first graduating class – a requirement for inclusion in The High School Challenge – making 2011 its first year of eligibility for the list.

“To have Peak Preparatory debut on The High School Challenge list at #11 in its first year of eligibility is a huge achievement that the entire Uplift Education family celebrates,” said Yasmin Bhatia. “This honor provides another external validation that the model Uplift started at North Hills Prep is equally successful at advancing student achievement in an urban setting like we have at Peak Prep.”

Its inclusion in The High School Challenge's top 15 comes on the end of a very successful year for Peak Preparatory and Uplift Education. Uplift's Class of 2011 has continued Uplift's legacy of 100% college acceptance and received more than \$20.5 million in scholarships and grants. These scholarships include, Uplift's first-ever Gates Millennium Scholar (Peak Prep), six Dell Scholars (Peak Prep, Summit International Prep, and Williams Prep), and five National Merit Scholarship winners (North Hills Prep).

Uplift will celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2011 at its first Uplift-wide College Signing Day at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 24, 2011 at SMU's Moody Coliseum. The event will also stream live to Uplift's website (www.uplifteducation.org) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/uplifteducation).

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 17 schools provide a rigorous, multi-disciplinary curriculum, with an emphasis on college preparation for 4,700 students. 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 our [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page.