

# P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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From:       Financial Service Centers of America

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **FiSCA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO THIRTY-FOUR OUTSTANDING COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENTS**

*Program Has Awarded \$530,500 to 225 Deserving Students  
From Across The Country Over The Past Ten Years*

**(Colorado Springs, CO – October 29, 2009)** – For the tenth consecutive year, the Financial Service Centers of America (FiSCA) has awarded scholarships to college bound seniors in areas across the United States serviced by its members. The awards were announced at the 21st Annual FiSCA’s Conference & Exposition, taking place in Colorado Springs, CO. One of the scholarship winners, Brandon Barbello of Burbank, CA, attended the conference and accepted his award in person. He is currently a freshman at Stanford University. The award ceremony, including remarks from Mr. Barbello, can be found by visiting <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cNmprnHRjag> and you can find the accompanying presentation at <http://www.fisca.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Events/2009AnnualConferenceExposition/NationalScholarshipPresentation.pdf>.

This year 34 exemplary students from across the country each received cash grants of at least \$2,000 to use toward their college expenses. In total \$70,500 in scholarships were awarded. The criteria for the scholarships include:

- Commitment to community service
- Perseverance in the face of significant obstacles
- Display of leadership skills in school
- Academic Achievement
- An original essay written specifically for the competition

The competition for the scholarships is intense, with more than 1,500 high school seniors applying for the 34 awards. All applications are ranked by first regional and then national review committees.

“It is an important time to support students in their pursuit of higher education,” said Sanford Herman, Chairman, FiSCA Scholarship Program. “Even in these difficult

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economic times, individual FiSCA members as well as MoneyGram International and Western Union, our national sponsors, are committed to the Scholarship Program and to the communities they serve. Our industry leaders understand that investing in America's future is in everyone's best interests."

With this year's awards FiSCA has issued \$530,500 in college grants to 225 deserving students across the country since the program's inception in 1999. The scholarship program is funded by the voluntary contributions of FiSCA members and affiliate members, as well as national sponsors MoneyGram International and Western Union. "FiSCA's members are driven to continue to be positive community establishments and this scholarship program continues to be a way for us to give back to these communities in which we work and live," said Herman. "Giving these students a chance to continue their education is an honor for us, and it is exciting to help these students fulfill their academic potential and lifelong goals."

The winners of the 2009 FiSCA Scholarship Program include:

<b>Winner</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>High School</b>
<b>East</b>		
Gayatri Malhotra	Forest Hills, NY	Stuyvesant High School
Min Yang	Haverstraw, NY	North Rockland High School
Krysten S. Thomas	Washington, DC	National Cathedral School
Maliah Tariq	Madison, CT	Daniel Hand High School
Rachel M. Babineau	Stratford, CT	Frank Scott Bunnell High School
Cara Falon Thompson	Sicklerville, NJ	Gloucester County Institute of Technology
Jeremiah P. Hudson	Forestville, MD	Central High School
<b>Southeast</b>		
Allison M. White	Portland, TN	Portland High School
Alesia N. McFarlin	Greenville, SC	Southside High School
Michelle D. Rooks	Wesley Chapel, FL	Wesley Chapel High School
Nathalie G. Calderon	Apopka, FL	Apopka High School
Tiffany J. Martin	Port Saint Lucie, FL	Treasure Coast High School
Shannen T. Jacobs	Cedar Grove, NC	Cedar Ridge High School
Anna A. Miles	Valdosta, GA	Valdosta High School
<b>Midwest</b>		
Christopher J. Murray	Hinsdale, IL	Hinsdale Central High School
Kara Faciszewski	Marshfield, WI	Marshfield High School
Erika J. Vivyan	Farmington Hills, MI	Harrison High School
Angela Weng	Chicago, IL	Whitney M. Young Magnet High School
Sarah M. Menke	Evansville, IN	North High School
Brittany S. Polin	Bardstown, KY	Bardstown High School
Erin L. Adams	Lee's Summit, MO	Lee's Summit High School
Katherine G. Polenick	Warren, OH	Warren G. Harding High School

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<b>Southwest</b>		
Vickie Garcia	Waco, TX	A.J. Moore Academy
Kara J. Ortiz	El Paso, TX	Franklin High School
Lute Yang	Spring, TX	Klein Collins High School
Matthew A. Smelser	Olathe, CO	Olathe High School
Allison L. Jones	Mansfield, TX	Mansfield Legacy High School
Christian R. Amador	Yuma, AZ	Kofa High School
Lindsey E. Maxon	Arlington, TX	Lamar High School
<b>West</b>		
Demoni A. Newman	Torrington, WY	Torrington High School
Brandon C. Barbello	Burbank, CA	John Burroughs High School
Danica J. Loucks	Hamilton, MT	Hamilton High School
Jeremy R. Chang	Laguna Niguel, CA	Dana Hills High School
Matthew T. Demopoulous	Santa Barbara, CA	Santa Barbara High School

### About FiSCA

FiSCA, founded in 1987, is the national trade association for more than 6,500 individual financial service centers across the United States. FiSCA members provide a wide variety of financial services and products to their communities, including check cashing, money orders, money transfers, and electronic bill payment services, automatic teller machine access, government benefit and payroll payments, small dollar short-term loans, electronic tax preparation, prepaid debit cards, deposit acceptance services, public transportation fare and token sales, motor vehicle license plate and title distribution, postage stamp sales and numerous other services. For more information, please visit [www.fisca.org](http://www.fisca.org).

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