

## **Four Preuss School UCSD Seniors Named As Gates Millennium Scholarship Winners; 21 From Preuss Have Been Chosen in Past Five Years**

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Four seniors at The Preuss School UCSD - a charter middle and high school for motivated, low-income students - have won scholarships from the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholars Program, a national competition that annually awards "good through graduation" scholarships to 1000 talented students nationwide for use at any college or university of their choice from undergraduate through graduate school. Over the past five years, 21 Preuss School seniors have won Gates Scholarships.

The Preuss School UCSD winners are: Erick Hernandez (Duke University), Miriam Million (Johns Hopkins University), Karina Santellano (Duke University) and Alexander Tesfamicael (Harvard University). Students are judged on their academic achievement, community service and leadership potential. In addition, Gates Millennium Scholars are provided with personal and professional development guidance throughout their college careers.

"This is an amazing achievement and we are so happy for these four accomplished seniors," said Scott Barton, principal of The Preuss School UCSD. He continued, "The fact that 21 Preuss School seniors have been named Gates Millennium Scholars over the last five years is something of which everyone at Preuss is proud."

This year, 95 percent of The Preuss School UCSD graduates were accepted to four-year colleges and universities, with 81 percent accepted to at least one University of California campus, the largest percentage in school history. "These numbers are all the more meaningful in light of the difficult circumstances each of our students must overcome just to get to Preuss each day," Barton said. "The dreams to be the first in their families to attend college would not be possible without the dedication of our faculty, staff and parent volunteers. It would also not be possible without private donor support, which ensures that we can to provide all the tools our students need to succeed," he said.

A total of 12 Preuss School seniors were named as finalists in the Gates Millennium Scholars program this year, a school record. In addition to the four scholarship recipients, the finalists are: Bruce Alvarez (Georgetown University), Jasmine Braswell (University of Southern California), Tony Chau (Duke University), Mai Chu (Harvard University), Aliyson De La Rosa (University of California, Berkeley), Anzueth Gonzalez (Colgate University), Carmen Hernandez (University of California, Los Angeles), and Brian Tran (University of California, San Diego).

The Preuss School UCSD was recently named a National Distinguished School by the California Department of Education and was reaccredited by The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). In 2010, the school was named a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. It was also ranked 16th among America's top 100 high schools by *Newsweek* and was the only California school in the top 20.

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