

Preuss School UCSD Student and Teacher among 2010 Bezos Scholars

Charter school's science teacher Anne Artz and student Miriam Million to attend national scholarship program at the acclaimed Aspen Institute

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Kristin Luciani

Anne Artz, a teacher at The Preuss School at the University of California, San Diego, and Preuss School junior Miriam Million have been selected as 2010 Bezos Scholars. A prestigious honor, the Bezos Scholars program selects 12 of the nation's top public high school juniors and 12 of the most engaged educators for a weeklong seminar designed to encourage dialogue, innovation, community involvement and global awareness at the acclaimed Aspen Ideas Festival in Colorado, July 5-11.

The Preuss School UCSD (<http://preuss.ucsd.edu>) is a middle and high school dedicated to providing intensive college-prep education for motivated low-income students who will become the first in their families to graduate from college. Every year, graduates go on to prestigious universities, including many University of California campuses, Harvard, Stanford and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

A popular science teacher, Artz began teaching 21 years ago and has been at The Preuss School for five years now. Her dedication to students goes well beyond the classroom—Artz chaperones school dances at night, often spends her Saturdays at conferences to get resources for the school and even takes her students on nature walks on the weekends.

"Mrs. Artz has a deep passion for the mission and guides students toward the goal of college," said Preuss Principal Scott Barton. "She truly believes that given the right environment, all students can and will be successful."

Preuss School junior Million has an unending curiosity and passion for learning. Her father fled the violence and instability of political unrest in Ethiopia, determined to reach America. In the United States, he created a new life for his wife and three-year-old daughter, establishing education as a central family value. Now Million is among the top 20 of her class, a student leader of a variety of extracurricular activities and a dedicated volunteer at Scripps Memorial Hospital in La Jolla.

"Drawing from his lack of access to an education in Ethiopia, my father always told me that because I am fortunate enough to have the opportunity of an education, I have the responsibility to excel," said Million.

Million plans to attend medical school and participate in Doctors Without Borders, an opportunity that would enable her to return to Africa to help the Ethiopian people.

As Bezos Scholars, Artz and Million will engage in debates, presentations and panel discussions led by global leaders, scientists, entrepreneurs and creative artists. The Bezos Scholars will meet and talk about today's most pressing topics, from scientific breakthroughs to approaches to education.

This is the second consecutive year that Bezos Scholars have been selected from The Preuss School UCSD. Last year, Principal Scott Barton and junior Paul Tran were among the 2009 Bezos Scholars.

Media Contact: Kristin Luciani, 858-822-3353, kluciani@ucsd.edu

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