

ACADEMIC SUCCESS PROGRAM

5440 Harvest Hill Road, Suite 145E, Dallas, Texas 75230

Three DallasISD High School Seniors named Gates Millennium Finalists!

By Sara Elizabeth Miller
March 7, 2014

Dallas, Texas – On March 6, 2014, three Dallas ISD high school seniors, Diwas Adhikari (Conrad High School), Loveless Johnson (Conrad High School), and Jared Juarez (Hillcrest High School) were named Finalists in the Gates Millennium Scholars Program for the Class of 2014. In addition to securing faculty and community nominations and recommendations, all students were required to complete a lengthy application process with eight essays about their academic, community, and personal goals and accomplishments. Out of 50,000+ high school seniors who apply for the Gates Millennium Scholarship, 2,000 finalists are chosen. In April, 1,000 students will be named Gates Millennium Scholars and receive a ten-year scholarship to cover their undergraduate and graduate studies.

About Diwas Adhikari

Diwas Adhikari moved to the United States four years ago. He left his home in Nepal where he lived in a refugee camp without electricity in search of a better future. He is currently a senior at Emmett J. Conrad High School in the Dallas Independent School District where he excels in academically rigorous classes that include Advanced Placement and dual credit courses. He is ranked in the top 1.5% of his graduating class.

Diwas is the Co-Captain of the Varsity Tennis Team, President of the Multicultural Club, Captain of the Bhutanese Dallas Rising Soccer Club, Operator Interface Captain of the Robotics Club, Group Captain of the Scholastic Academic Decathlon Team, Group Leader of the Community Service Club, a member of the National Honor Society, and has earned the distinction of ASP Scholar by being a student leader committed to promoting a college-going culture amongst his peers.

Aside from his impressive accolades, Diwas has a strong and genuine sense of civic duty. He has volunteered over 400 hours with various community organizations. One of his most notable projects has been teaching an ESL class for elderly refugees through the Organization of Bhutanese Society. In order for refugees to become citizens and remain in the United States, they must learn to speak English. His work is an influential factor in determining whether or not a refugee gets to stay in this country.

Diwas plans to study Aerospace Engineering and dreams of working with NASA in the future. He has been accepted to UT Austin and Texas A&M College Station, and he is awaiting notification from Bowdoin College, Davidson College, Rice University, Tufts University, Vanderbilt University, and Wesleyan University.

About Loveless Johnson

Loveless Johnson IV, or ‘Quatro’ as his mother affectionately refers to him, is a senior at Emmett J. Conrad High School in the Dallas Independent School District. Loveless is ranked in the top 7% in the Class of 2014. As early as his freshman year, he was taking Advanced Electronics courses at Mountain View Community College. He has consistently excelled in both Advanced Placement courses and dual credit classes.

Loveless is the Captain of the Speech and Debate Team, has served as a Student Ambassador for the People to People Ambassadorial Program, was a national finalist for the “Do the Write Thing” essay contest, is a member of the Environmental and Energy Team through the Student Council, and works to create a college-going culture at Conrad through his role as an ASP Scholar. He is heavily involved with his church and looks for opportunities to volunteer frequently throughout the Dallas community. He even found time to volunteer while participating in his People to People Ambassadorial trip alongside mental health patients in tending to a neglected garden in Europe.

Loveless is respected as a leader amongst his peers and is rarely spotted without his trusty skateboard in hand. His long term goals include graduating with a degree in Environmental Design and creating a clothing brand and company. He also dreams of designing a skate park and establishing a charitable foundation that

ACADEMIC SUCCESS PROGRAM

5440 Harvest Hill Road, Suite 145E, Dallas, Texas 75230

assists students with college and scholarship applications. Loveless plans to stay in Texas for college and has been accepted to UT-Austin and UT-Arlington but is waiting to hear back from UT-Dallas, Texas Tech University, Baylor University, and the University of Houston.

About Jared Juarez

Jared is a senior at Hillcrest High School within the Dallas Independent School District who excels academically and athletically while also maintaining a strong sense of duty to our local community. Jared is ranked in the top 1.8% of his graduating class and has taken the most rigorous Advanced Placement courseload available to him throughout high school.

Jared is a two-year Captain of the Varsity Football and Varsity Wrestling teams. He is a member of Interact Club and was recognized his junior year with the Rotary Youth Leadership Award. Jared is also a member of the National Honors Society, and the manager of the cheerleading squad. Jared placed 5th and qualified for regionals in the UIL Vocabulary competition as a junior and participated in the Hispanic Youth Institute and ROTC. Jared works at Hollister and enjoys volunteering at Operation Kindness and East Lake Pet Orphanage when he has a few extra moments.

Jared will be the first in his family to attend college and is proud to set an example for other first-generation students, including his younger sister who is currently a freshman at Hillcrest. Jared's goals center around helping those in need and he is considering becoming a Civil Engineer for the betterment of society, helping animals as a veterinarian, or providing care for people as a doctor. He has been accepted to numerous colleges including Ithaca College, Oklahoma State University, Texas A&M, TCU, University of Arkansas, UNT, UT-Austin, Valparaiso University, and Baylor. Jared is awaiting notification from Bard College, Loyola University-Maryland, and Wake Forest University. Regardless of where Jared enrolls, he plans to continue encouraging other first generation students to dream big and follow their dreams, wherever they may lead them.

About Academic Success Program

The Academic Success Program is a non-profit organization that was chosen by Dallas ISD to provide support for high school students throughout the college application, financial aid, and scholarship processes. ASP College Advisors guide students throughout the entire process – providing insight on college search and selection, recommendation letters, and ultimately helping students and their families decide which school to attend after high school graduation.

About Gates Millennium Scholars Program

The Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) Program selects 1,000 talented students each year to receive a good-through-graduation scholarship to use at any college or university of their choice. They provide Gates Millennium Scholars with personal and professional development through our leadership programs along with academic support throughout their college career.

Contact

To learn more about these incredible students and their fantastic opportunity, please contact

Sara Miller, Academic Success Program
5440 Harvest Hill Road, Suite 145E
Dallas, Texas 75230
Office: (214) 420-4288
Fax: (214) 206-9802
smiller@aspdallas.org