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DALLAS FORT WORTH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 4, 2007

Students 'Share The Dream' At DFW International Airport's Scholarship Awards Ceremony

Airport recognizes 'its future' honoring students outstanding efforts to grow

DFW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, Texas (May 4, 2007) — Twenty local high school scholarship recipients were honored today at the DFW International Airport's "Share the Dream" award ceremony at the DFW Hyatt Regency. Inaugurated in 2004 to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of DFW, the scholarship program is now in its fourth year supporting and encouraging students around North Texas to maintain their integrity and use their determination to succeed in school.

"My dreams of flying began early on, while growing up in Dallas, but those dreams propelled me toward my future career and hobby; flying," said J. Jan Collmer, Chairman of the DFW International Airport Board. "Success can only be achieved through the application of daily dedication and perseverance. DFW was once just the dream of civic leaders from Dallas and Fort Worth, but now DFW is the third-busiest Airport and a major international gateway."

At the 1973 dedication of the Airport, former Texas Governor John Connally said, "DFW Airport is dedicated to the young faces of the future, here and around the world."

A total for 42 essays were submitted to DFW for review and, while all were deemed winners, 20 students received the \$250 scholarship. Every student received personalized "Share the Dream" award medallions, caps, ink pens, picture frames, backpacks, a *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff for Teens* books, a school thesaurus, and a *Dream* book of inspirations. Since the program's inception in 2004, the Airport has awarded scholarships to 90 high school students who are striving to be the best they can be.

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“High school students like these here today are the future of this Airport and the aviation community with their hard work and dedication this region will continue to boast an outstanding business climate,” said Jeff Fegan, CEO of DFW. “Students researched a career in aviation and explained why math and science is needed for that career in a short essay. This fresh look at aviation careers opens the eyes of students to not only the success they can achieve at an Airport like DFW but in any career they choose to pursue.”

The DFW Public Affairs Department designed the "Share the Dream" program to recognize students who have struggled in school and life, but have made great improvements toward their dreams. Educators nominated students in grades 9 through 12. A committee of Airport employees selected the recipients.

Judges based their decisions on the students' ability to research and write about the importance of math and science in their chosen aviation career. DFW designed this year's scholarship award to support the area's school districts efforts to develop students' skills in math and science.

“The aspiration to improve is what drives the aviation industry – to create a safer, faster, friendlier and more economical way to fly,” said Lillie Biggins, Board vice chair for DFW. “These 20 individuals represent the next generation of great engineers, mechanics, pilots, ground handling agents, computer programmers, business analysts, public safety professionals in the fields of police, fire, EMS and nurses and doctors along with so much more.”

The awards' theme is inspired by the "Share the Dream" sculpture that stood at Founders Plaza, presented to the Airport by AMR/American Airlines Foundation to commemorate the Airport's 25th Anniversary. The sculpture, created by artist Dennis Smith, symbolizes the love of flight and the spirit of the original dream that became DFW Airport. It is dedicated to future generations with the hope that it may serve as a reminder that dreams can become reality. Depicting three children, the sculpture has an inscription that reads, "On a warm summer evening, on the open Texas prairie, children play with arms outstretched and dream of soaring among the clouds." The statue will return to its place of prominence later this year as Founders Plaza is rebuilt.

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The "Share the Dream" scholarship recipients:

Success High School

Jesus Rincon

Blanca Rodriguez

Carter Riverside High School

Magdalena Sierra

Liliana Flores

Academy of Irving High School

Amy Villarreal

Sneha Kuruvila

International Newcomer High School

Ana Motino

Shilah Mohammad Naem

W. H. Adamson High School

Juliana Maldonado

Alma Acosta

L. G. Pinkston High School

Stormy Mitchell

Velondria Burse

New Lives High School

Porsha McMaryion

Lea Oliver

Venture High School

Chelsea Parsons

Jeremy Thompson

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Nimitz High School

Brittany Anderson

Victoria Kelly

KEYS High School

Sheikko Siharath

Michael Light

About DFW International Airport

Located halfway between the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas, DFW International Airport is the world's third busiest, offering nearly 1,900 flights per day and serving 60 million passengers a year. Named as 2007's "Best Airport for Customer Service in the Americas" by an Airports Council International survey of passengers, DFW International Airport provides non-stop service to 133 domestic and 36 international destinations worldwide. For the latest news, real-time flight information, parking availability or further details regarding the many services provided at DFW International Airport, log on to www.dfwairport.com.

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