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Pittsburg High School Senior Awarded Gates Millennium Scholarship

Pittsburg, CA...High School Senior Brianna Davis has been awarded the Gates Millennium Scholarship, a highly competitive reward that few scholars in California have received. This year, out of more than 53,000 applicants, only 1,000 total scholarships were awarded throughout the Nation by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. "This scholarship means more to me than I can ever put into words; I actually cried when I found out, said Brianna Davis," High School Senior at Pittsburg High School. "Now I have one less thing to worry about when I transition into college and that is life-changing." Davis' hard work and determination made it possible for her to receive this prestigious honor. The Gates Millennium Scholarship is a scholarship that will cover all four years of Davis' education at UCLA where she plans to major in English and minor in Theatre.

The application process for this highly selective scholarship was not easy. Among the rigorous requirements for the application process was the ability to wow judges with eight individual essays with a vast array of topics ranging from extraneous situations surrounding one's life to describing your least favorite class. "Brianna is a dynamic young woman who is very deserving of the Gates Millennium Scholarship," said Jamie Keith, Teacher at Pittsburg High School. "I am so proud of her and beyond happy that she's been acknowledged for her hard work by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation." Besides carrying a 3.9 GPA, Davis is currently involved in the Black Student Union, Science Club, Thespian Society, and the Gay-Straight Alliance.

During the last semester of her senior year, she is juggling three AP classes, a part-time job, and found time to direct the one-act play, Lockdown. "Brianna is a wonderful student and a wonderful example of a PHS Pirate," said Makaela Huntsinger, Theatre Arts Teacher at Pittsburg High School. "She has a wonderful, bright future in front of

her. She has a drive to be better that I find admirable. I just couldn't be prouder of her.” Pittsburg Unified School District applauds Ms. Davis for her academic achievements and commends the tenacity she has put forth to be selected for the Gates Millennium Scholars Program.

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About Pittsburg Unified School District

Pittsburg Unified School District (PUSD) is a K-12 district serving the community of Pittsburg, California. Founded in 1933, the school system is committed to providing an excellent opportunity for all students to learn. Comprised of eight elementary schools, three junior high schools, one comprehensive high school, one alternative education high school, an adult school, independent study, alternative learning experiences, and early childhood education services, the school district serves more than 10,500 students. PUSD is located in the San Francisco Bay Area, fifty minutes outside of downtown San Francisco. <http://www.pittsburg.k12.ca.us/>

About The Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) Program

The Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) Program, funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, was established in 1999 to provide outstanding African American, American Indian/Alaska Native*, Asian Pacific Islander American**, and Hispanic American students with an opportunity to complete an undergraduate college education in any discipline area of interest. Continuing Gates Millennium Scholars may request funding for a graduate degree program in one of the following discipline areas: computer science, education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health or science.

In 1999, a bold vision of what America’s future would look like began to take shape. In that view, America’s leadership would include 20,000 individuals, all people of color, who would make a significant impact on the future direction of the nation. Coming from among the most financially needy students and attending the nation’s best colleges and universities, they would represent the extraordinary promise inherent among all highly academically capable individuals, no matter what their background. Moreover, the planners envisioned that the researched experiences of the students’ matriculation and retention, the fact of these individuals’ extraordinary successes to terminal degrees, and the testimony of their voices, would spark conversation, and perhaps debate, leading to public policies and added philanthropic contributions in support of similarly able and financially challenged young people. That vision of Bill and Melinda Gates was funded by a historic grant of more than 1 billion dollars to the United Negro College Fund (UNCF)—still the largest single gift to any scholarship organization. <https://scholarships.gmsp.org/Program/Details/7123dfc6-da55-44b7-a900-0c08ba1ac35c>