**HISD Scholars Banquet to recognize 90-plus high school seniors at top of their class**

*April 11, 2016* – The Houston Independent School District will pay tribute next week to the top students from each high school’s graduating class during the annual Scholars Banquet.

In addition to their outstanding academic achievements, these 98 valedictorians and salutatorians have garnered more than $10 million year-to-date in scholarship and financial aid offers.

The students will be recognized for their dedication and hard work during the banquet, which will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 12 at The Westin Oaks Houston at the Galleria, 5011 Westheimer Road.

“We are extremely proud of our class of 2016 scholars who have worked hard in order to reach their goals,” said HISD Interim Superintendent Ken Huewitt, who is scheduled to speak at the event. “Their hard word has paid off because these students have made it a personal priority to prepare for college and ultimately their future, and we are excited to see where their future takes them.”

Among the students being honored at the event is Timeria Conley, valedictorian at Barbara Jordan High School, graduating with a 4.4 GPA. She plans to attend Texas A&M University to study biomedical science and to pursue a career as a neurosurgeon or emergency medical physician.

Conley also is part of the Genesys Works program, which provides business environment internships to underserved and economically disadvantaged high school students. One of the obstacles she faced while aiming to be her class valedictorian was holding down a fulltime job to help take care of her family and also learning to believe in herself.

“Each one of the students who will be honored has undoubtedly made excellence a habit,” said HISD Board of Education Trustee Diana Dávila, who will speak at the event. “Day in and day out, these students have paid attention in class, read, studied, completed assignments on time, and put forth their best effort. I encourage them to keep up these excellent habits, no matter where life takes them.”

**Austin High School**

Valedictorian: Melanie Elaine Salazar

Salutatorian: Joshua Emmanuel Puente

**Bellaire High School**

Valedictorian: Amber Eimily Liu

Salutatorian: Liana Wang

**Carnegie Vanguard High School**

Valedictorians: Annum Sadana and Victoria Lynn Songyang

**Challenge Early College High School**

Valedictorian: Chianti Kamoray Price

Salutatorian: Anthony Curtis Mallory

**Chávez High School**

Valedictorian: Tram Dinh Huyen Tran

Salutatorians: Daniela Uribe

**Davis High School**

Valedictorian: Luz Adriana De Leon

Salutatorian: Felipe Rodriguez

**DeBakey High School for Health Professions**

Valedictorian: Akshaya Annapragada

Salutatorians: Gary Zhang

**East Early College High School**

Valedictorians: Mirayada D. Martinez and Cesar A. Rodriguez

**Eastwood Academy**

Valedictorian: Michael Casio

Salutatorians: Alexandra Mena and Edith Flores

**Energized for E-STEM Central High School**

Valedictorian: Irasema Idalia Cruz-Lopez

Salutatorian: Briana Da'Shay Roberson

**Energized for E-STEM West High School**

Valedictorian: Roxana Yadira Ruiz

Salutatorian: Lidia Del Carmen Molina Serpas

**Furr High School**

Valedictorians: Brenda Lourdes Gonzalez

Salutatorian: Paola Lizeth Ramon

**High School for Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice**

Valedictorian: Diana Janet Sandoval

Salutatorian: Jennifer Lopez

**High School for the Performing & Visual Arts**

Valedictorian: Kate Alexandra Ham

Salutatorian: Emily Hendrina Soice

**Houston Academy for International Studies**

Valedictorian: Shivani Bhaskar Trivedi

Salutatorian: David Mena

**Jane Long Academy**

Valedictorian: Shahrukh Rahman Ali

Salutatorian: Kinza Rizwan

**Jones Futures Academy**

Valedictorian: Desiree Marie Watts-Gardner

Salutatorian: Xavier Rene Barreda

**Jordan High School**

Valedictorian: Timeria Juanita Carol Conley

Salutatorian: Jennifer Gomez

**Kashmere High School**

Valedictorian: Kiana M. Sheffield

Salutatorian: Na'Keya A. Jordan

**Lamar High School**

Valedictorian: Philip X. Tran

Salutatorian: Jacob A. Harrison

**Lee High School**

Valedictorians: Oscar Wu

Salutatorian: Karim A. Saber

**Liberty High School**

Valedictorian: Ayat Alnour Bakora

Salutatorian: Karol Vanessa Castro Seren

**Madison High School**

Valedictorian: Lesbia Elizabeth Espinal Rodriguez

Salutatorian: Helili Josefina Torres

**Mickey Leland College Preparatory Academy for Young Men**

Valedictorian: Marcos Lopez

Salutatorian: Darrell Diggs

**Middle College High School – HCC Fraga**

Valedictorian: DeShonda Denise Varnado

Salutatorian: Gissell Maldonado

**Middle College High School – HCC Gulfton**

Valedictorian: Sandra Yanira Aguilar

Salutatorian: Cindy Margaret Chavez

**Milby High School**

Valedictorian: Jesus Amilkar Reyna

Salutatorian: Joe Manuel Salazar

**Mount Carmel Academy**

Valedictorian: Samuel Cave Lewis

Salutatorians: Edward Eddie Bernal and Erika Daniella Ortiz

**North Forest High School**

Valedictorian: Charlotte Ayala

Salutatorian: Jhebre Warren

**North Houston Early College High School**

Valedictorian: Cyrus Armand Gordillo

Salutatorian: Anthony Raul Ramirez

**REACH Charter High School**

Valedictorian: Julieta Victoria Mendoza

Salutatorian: Roberto Del Angel-Olvera, Jr.

**Reagan High School**

Valedictorian: Misael Gutierrez

Salutatorian: Aitor Jimenez

**Sam Houston Math, Science & Technology Center**

Valedictorian: Pamela Toledo

Salutatorian: Jose Alberto Pineda

**Scarborough High School**

Valedictorian: Antonio Rivera IV

Salutatorian: Briana Guadalupe Orozco

**Sharpstown High School**

Valedictorian: Raven Jade McIntosh

Salutatorian: Billy Danny Ramos

**Sharpstown International School**

Valedictorian: Mater Dolorosa Chinasaokwu N. Osueke

Salutatorian: Karen Guadalupe Ortiz

**South Early College High School**

Valedictorian: Sejeia Lillian Freelon

Salutatorian: Myranda Kachelle Jannette

**Sterling Aviation High School**

Valedictorian: Maryury Lizzeth Santos Cruz

Salutatorian: Shemaun Markell Thomas

**Texas Connections Academy Houston**

Valedictorians: Courtlyn Leigh Ranly and Kelley Moran Ranly

**Waltrip High School**

Valedictorian: Clayton Edward Malkowsky

Salutatorian: Emily Kate Roberts

**Washington High School**

Valedictorian: Joshua Rahat Rahman

Salutatorian: Osvaldo Emanuel Vasquez

**Westbury High School**

Valedictorian: Kezia Silke Flores

Salutatorian: Natalie Giselle Escobar

**Westside High School**

Valedictorian: Prachi Surbhi

Salutatorians: Autumn Lee Caraway

**Wheatley High School**

Valedictorian: Branaun Anthony Galentine

Salutatorian: Karla Paola Pardo

**Worthing High School**

Valedictorian: Taylor Lynise Hodrick

Salutatorian: Colandria Evleen Haynes

**Yates High School**

Valedictorian: Gurpreet Kaur Garcha

Salutatorian: Tanya Marie Owens

**Young Women’s College Preparatory Academy**

Valedictorian: Paige Allison Moore

Salutatorian: Yenifer Jasmin Martinez

