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OVER 700 HISD GRADUATING SENIORS ARE EXPECTED TO RECEIVE \$2.8 MILLION IN SCHOLARSHIPS

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Project GRAD Houston awards HISD scholarship recipients at Scholarship Award Ceremony

HOUSTON – College scholarships will be awarded to over 700 Houston Independent School District (HISD) students – a \$2.8 million scholarship commitment. For the 19th consecutive year, Project GRAD Houston will award college scholarships to seniors from the 2010 graduating classes of Davis, Reagan, Sam Houston, Wheatley, and Yates High Schools. Scholarship recipients will be recognized at a joint reception, the Scholarship Award Ceremony, on **Thursday, May 20, 2010 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the Cullen Performance Hall on the University of Houston campus.**

The theme for the evening, "From Diplomas to Degrees," captures the intent of the Project GRAD scholars to continue their educational journey beyond high school. Invited family members and school district officials will observe as each recipient receives a medallion to wear at their graduation – a visible symbol of meeting all the requirements of the scholarship. Guest speakers for the evening will include scholarship recipients from each of the HISD/Project GRAD high schools, Project GRAD co-founder James Ketelsen, HISD Superintendent Dr. Terry Grier, HISD Board member Paula Harris, and college-graduated GRAD scholars.

This year's graduates join over 4,500 other qualifiers who have been awarded the scholarship since the program's inception in 1992, an investment by Project GRAD Houston, the El Paso Corporate Foundation, the James P. Grizzard Foundation, the Robert and Janice McNair Foundation, the Edgar and Mary Frances Monteith Education Fund, the Fayez Sarofim Education Fund, the U.S. Department of Education GEAR UP Trust, and other community partners of more than \$18 million in the future of our communities, our city, and our nation.

WHAT: Project GRAD Houston's Scholarship Award Ceremony

WHEN: Thursday, May 20, 2010, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

WHERE: Cullen Performance Hall, University of Houston

WHO: Students from the 2010 graduating classes of Davis, Reagan, Sam Houston, Wheatley, and Yates High Schools, families, and event guest speakers

The mission of Project GRAD is to ensure a quality public education for all students in economically disadvantaged communities so that high school and college graduation rates increase.