

# Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Announces Class of 2015

## ***200 Students Selected - Largest Number of Future Teachers Enrolled in Program's History***

**CHICAGO** (April 28, 2015) – Golden Apple proudly announces the selection of the 2015 class of the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program, a group of 200 dynamic young people who have chosen to dedicate themselves to a future career educating children in schools of need. **(See below for the complete list of Golden Apple Scholars.)**

Including the class of 2015, the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois program has grown to more than **1,800** statewide participants since its inception in 1989. The program is uniquely designed to prepare future teachers to thrive in the most challenging high-needs school environments where more resilient teachers are desperately needed.

“We applaud these young people for making the selfless choice to inspire and lead future generations of students through a career in education,” said Dominic Belmonte, Golden Apple president and CEO. “As teachers they will experience the reward of improving the lives of thousands of children. We know from experience that excellent teachers produce successful students and we welcome this new class of future educators with deep gratitude and enthusiasm.”

The Scholars program has been proven to profoundly improve persistence and graduation rates among participants. In addition, the program has been shown to have a significant impact on workforce development by helping low-income and under-represented students gain necessary skill development for a lasting career in teaching. Evidence of the success of the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program includes:

- 1,682 students were nominated; 200 Golden Apple Scholars were selected for the Class of 2015
- Over 800 Golden Apple Scholars are now teaching in over 500 schools of need in Illinois.
- Over 80% of Scholars who enter teaching remain at least 5 years, compared with 55% statewide.
- More than 665,000 students in Illinois have been taught by Golden Apple Scholars since 1989.
- 50% of our Scholars earn more in their first year of teaching than their total household income at the time they applied to college.

The 2015 class of Scholars represents a diverse group of young people from across the state of Illinois:

- 57% are first generation college students
- 38% are from very low/low income households
- 50% are people of color
- 21% are men and 79% are women

The program provides tuition assistance to each future teacher while they pursue an undergraduate education. Beginning the summer after high school graduation and continuing throughout their undergraduate years, Scholars benefit from four teaching internships, ongoing academic and career mentoring and course work on the art of teaching delivered by Golden Apple Award-winning teachers. When Scholars complete the program, they have acquired more than three times the classroom teaching experience garnered by traditionally prepared teachers. Golden Apple continues to support Scholars after they begin their teaching careers through ongoing mentoring and professional development. In return for the financial, academic, and professional development support that Golden Apple provides, Scholars agree to teach in a high-need school in Illinois for five years following college graduation.

Nominations for the 2016 class of Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois will open on May 1, 2015. Nominate a student, or students may also nominate themselves, at [www.goldenapple.org/nominations](http://www.goldenapple.org/nominations).

### **About Golden Apple**

2015 marks Golden Apple's 30th year of innovating teacher preparation to transform both the careers of teachers, as well as the lives of students in Illinois. Our focus is on advancing educational excellence for Illinois' most under-served students. We begin by recognizing high school and collegiate talent with a passion for teaching and a drive to create positive change for students and their communities. We enhance their college education with exemplary advanced teacher preparation, game-changing resources and lifelong support, through our Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois program.

Golden Apple is composed of recognized superior educators, including Golden Apple Award recipients and finalists, leading a passionate team of devoted staff with technical and program expertise, as well as a connected and committed board of directors charged with overseeing our strategic vision. Visit <http://www.goldenapple.org> for more information.

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### **FULL LIST OF GOLDEN APPLE SCHOLARS CLASS OF 2015:**

<b>Student First Name</b>	<b>Student Last Name</b>	<b>High School</b>	<b>Home City</b>
Ibrahim	Abubakar	Gwendolyn Brooks College Prep	Chicago
Peter	Aburto	Schaumburg HS	Hanover Park
Kayla	Adams	Plainfield South HS	Plainfield
Yaneza	Aguinaga	Northside College Prep	Chicago
Katherine	Anderson	Morton HS	Morton
Christina	Angle	Cary-Grove HS	Cary
Susan	Anthony	Marengo HS	Marengo
James	Ariel	Br Rice HS	Chicago
Manka	Arifi	Maine East HS	Niles
Carina	Armas	Curie HS	Chicago
Yesica	Ayala	Mundelein HS	Wauconda

Emilee	Baldwin	Schaumburg HS	Hoffman Estates
Brianna	Bankhead	Waukegan HS	Waukegan
Maura	Barfield	Winchester High School	Winchester
Halee	Barker	Richards HS	Chicago Ridge
Cornelius	Bellamy	Muchin HS	Chicago
Ashley	Bergbower	Newton Comm HS	Newton
Hannah	Bobrytzke	Cary Grove High School	Cary
Corina	Bottcher	North Boone HS	Poplar Grove
Michael	Bowen	Canton HS	Canton
Melissa	Brander	Niles North HS	Skokie
Jazmin	Brito	Northside HS	Chicago
Madeline	Brown	Hoopeston HS	Hoopeston
Lila	Bryant	Washington Community HS	Washington
Samantha	Buresch	Conant HS	Schaumburg
Paxton	Campbell	Sangamon Valley HS	Illioopolis
Joaquin	Cardenas	East Leyden HS	Franklin Park
Abigail	Carlin	Neuqua Valley HS	Naperville
Jonathan	Carrillo	Chicago Bulls HS	Chicago
Marina	Castillo	Taft HS	Chicago
Thalia	Castro	Washington HS	Chicago
Miranda	Catrambone	Chicago Academy	Chicago
Alyssa	Chlebek	Barrington HS	South Barrington
Erik	Cisneros Diaz	Palatine HS	Palatine
Bianca	Claudio	St Ignatius College Prep	Chicago
Veronica	Cordova	Juarez HS	Chicago
Cassandra	Cowperthwaite	Grayslake North HS	Lake Villa
Albert	Cox	UIC College Prep	Riverdale
Madison	Crawford	Springfield HS	Springfield
Dustin	Currier	North Boone High School	Chicago
Lindsay	Currihan	West Chicago HS	West Chicago
Malik	Curtis	Homewood Flossmoor HS	Homewood
Karen	David	Niles North HS	Skokie
Hannah	Deitsch	Heyworth HS	Heyworth
Nandita	Devulapally	Conant	Roselle
Jeanell	Dohrman	Joliet Central HS	Elwood
David	Donnick	Shepard HS	Palos Heights
Kayla	Dossett	Illinois Valley Central HS	Chillicothe
Daisy	Duenas	Lake View HS	Chicago
Claire	Dwyer	Lake Park HS	Bloomingtondale
Brenda	Escalante	Morton East HS	Cicero
Mackenzie	Escher	Freeburg Comm HS	Smithton
Evelyn	Estrada	Lindblom HS	Chicago
Kathryn	Falcon	South Elgin HS	South Elgin
Isabella	Fioretto	Maine South HS	Park Ridge
Ana	Flores	Lake View HS	Chicago
Jennifer	Flores	Curie HS	Chicago
Joshua	Flores	Rauner College Prep	Chicago
Stephanie	Flores	Infinity Math & Science HS	Chicago
Patricia	Flores Marquez	Rock Island HS	Rock Island
Samuel	Fragoso	Glenbard East HS	Lombard
Heather	Funk	Bradley Bourbonnais HS	Bourbonnais

Danielle	Garber	Riverside HS	Rapids City
Isabel	Godinez	Muchin HS	Chicago
Kaitlyn	Goldman	Pickneyville HS	Pinckneyville
Joaquin	Gomez	Lincoln Park HS	Chicago
Omar	Gomez	De La Salle HS	Chicago
Estefani	Gonzalez	Joliet Central HS	Joliet
Natalie	Gonzalez	Argo HS	Summit
Selena	Gonzalez	Trinity HS	Cicero
Ryan	Grannemann	McHenry West HS	McHenry
Michelle	Greene	Georgetown Ridge Farm HS	Georgetown
Sarah	Gregory	Marist HS	Palos Park
Adriana	Hardrick	Rich Central HS	Richton Park
Amy	Harenberg	DeVry HS	Chicago
Micayla	Harris	Golder College Prep	Chicago
Alexis	Hart	Illinois Valley Central HS	Peoria
Madeline	Headtke	Urbana HS	Urbana
Angelica	Hernandez	Glenbard North HS	Carol Stream
Jennifer	Hernandez	Curie HS	Chicago
Allison	Hinze	Naperville Central	Naperville
Allison	Holmes	Barrington HS	South Barrington
Brittani	Hood	Thornwood HS	Chicago
Alexandrea	Hudson	Oakland HS	Hindsboro
Noel	Hudson	Armstrong Twp HS	Potomac
Daniel	Huerta	Rauner College Prep	Chicago
Erin	Huff	Southwest HS	Brighton
Brigid	Hughes	Senn HS	Chicago
Heather	Jarvis	O'Fallon HS	O'Fallon
Whitney	Jean	Niles North HS	Skokie
Kelly	Jimenez	Aurora West	Aurora
Ashley	Johnson	Pontiac Township High School	Odell
Justin	Johnson	Evergreen Park HS	Evergreen Park
Mallory	Johnson	Lincoln-way Central High School	New Lenox
Jina	Kim	Lane Tech HS	Chicago
Nicole	Lasselle	Elmwood Park HS	Elmwood Park
Sarah	Lawson	Illinois Valley Central HS	Chllicothe
Nancy	Lazaro	Westinghouse HS	Chicago
Alyssa	Lee	Buffalo Grove HS	Buffalo Grove
Danielle	Lewis	GCMS HS	Gibson City
Kyle	Lieberum	Glenbard North HS	Bloomingtondale
Courtney	Lilly	Providence St Mel HS	Chicago
Soraya	Limon	Bloom Trail HS	South Chicago Heights
Tiana	Little	St Joseph HS	Broadview
Melissa	Lonero	Glenbard North HS	Carol Stream
Leslie	Lopez	West Leyden HS	Melrose Park
Rachel	Manchur	Taft HS	Chicago
Nikolette	Manna	St Charles North HS	St. Charles
Justyna	Matejaszczyk	East Leyden HS	Schiller Park
Emily	Mathew	Bureau Valley HS	Walnut
Meredith	Matson	Newton Comm HS	Newton
Jodi	McCann	Carterville HS	Carterville
Madison	McGinnes	Dee-Mack HS	Mackinaw

Sydney	McReyolds	Newton Comm HS	Newton
Julia	Melnick	Niles North HS	Skokie
Linda	Melo	Prosser HS	Chicago
Dalia	Mena	Steinmetz HS	Chicago
Jayleen	Mercado	West Leyden HS	Franklin Park
Cheri	Michelich	Auburn HS	Auburn
Grace	Mikrut	Chicago HS for Ag	Chicago
Katrina	Miley	Conant HS	Roselle
Abbie	Miller	Midwest Central HS	Manito
Miranda	Molina	Riverside Brookfield HS	Brookfield
Maryam	Muhammad	Lindblom HS	Chicago
Kalie	Musser	Milford HS	Milford
Faviola	Noriega	Argo Comm HS	Summit
Chase	Norton	Danville HS	Danville
Daliha	Orozco	Larkin HS	Sleepy hollow
Hannah	Orr	Barrington HS	Hoffman Estates
Sanjuanita	Ortiz	Rauner College Prep	Chicago
Alysa	Padilla	Washington HS	Chicago
Brett	Palmer	Lanphier HS	Springfield
Rachel	Petty	South Beloit HS	South Beloit
Ciera	Phillips	Brooks HS	Chicago
Whitney	Pierce	DuQuoin HS	Du Quoin
Taylor	Pilarczyk	Jones HS	Chicago
Megan	Porter	Armstrong Twp HS	Gifford
Danielle	Price	Jones HS	Chicago
Ashanti	Pulphus	Kenwood HS	Chicago
Bryan James	Quesea	Prospect HS	Mount Prospect
Jazmin	Quinones	Holy Trinity HS	Cicero
Gabriella Ramirez	Ramirez	Shepard HS	Worth
Jacob	Rangel	Lemont HS	Lemont
Gladys	Recalde	Taft HS	Chicago
Randon	Recker	Dunlap HS	Dunlap
Emma	Reidner	Princeton HS	Princeton
Abigail	Reno	Hersey HS	Arlington Heights
Francisco	Reyes	Lindblom HS	Chicago
Raul	Reynoso	East Leyden HS	Franklin Park
Nicholas	Rivera	Pritzker HS	Chicago
Holly	Robbins	Wilimngton HS	Wilmington
Hailey	Rossmann	Knoxville Senior HS	Gilson
Yesenia	Saldana	World Language HS	Chicago
Bianca	Santoyo	Lindblom HS	Chicago
Alyssa	Scaramuzzi	Oswego HS	Oswego
Hannah	Schlecht	Lincoln Park HS	Chicago
Sarah	Schmitt	Marengo HS	Marengo
Tamar	Schwartzman	Highland Park HS	Highland Park
Meghan	Scott	Oregon HS	Oregon
Brinasia	Scroggins	Uplift HS	Riverdale
Olivia	Sears	St Charles East HS	St. Charles
Nishita	Shukla	Glenbard North HS	Carol Stream
Miguel	Silva	Bolingbrook HS	Bolingbrook
Olivia	Skummer	Plainfield South HS	Plainfield

Caitlin	Smith	Routt Catholic HS	Jacksonville
Steven	Smrt	Christian Life HS	Roscoe
Rachel	Snyder	East Richland HS	Olney
Anthony	Solano	Conant HS	Elk Grove Village
Elizabeth	Sotelo	Schurz HS	Chicago
David	Soto	Kennedy HS	Chicago
Marisol	Soto	Lincoln Park HS	Chicago
Whitney	Spencer	Danville HS	Danville
Randall	Sperry	Washington Comm HS	Washington
Tyler	Stacey	Ashton Franklin Center HS	Franklin Grove
Lauren	Sulkowski	Glenbrook North HS	Northbrook
Nina	Sullivan	Evanston HS	Evanston
Samantha	Sylverne	Schaumburg HS	Schaumburg
Noah	Tang	Naperville North HS	Lisle
Kennedy	Taylor	Eureka HS	Eureka
Marlea	Thielbar	Pekin Comm HS	Pekin
Sean	Tippey	Pekin Comm HS	Pekin
Emma	Tod	Normal Comm West HS	Normal
Katrina	Toman	IL Math & Science Academy	Antioch
Summer	Tracy	Triad High School	Troy
Sergio	Tristan	Lane Tech HS	Chicago
Luz Maria	Vaca	Cristo Rey HS	Chicago
Marlene	Valencia	Morton East HS	Cicero
Victoria	Valentine	Northside HS	Chicago
Jocelyn	Velazquez	Senn HS	Chicago
Yuliana	Vigil	Golder College Prep	Chicago
Alejandro	Villafuerte	UIC College Prep	Chicago
Alyssa	Wheatley	East Peoria HS	East Peoria
Hannah	Whidden	Rolling Meadows HS	Rolling Meadows
Antione	Whitfield	Mt Carmel HS	Chicago
Julia	Wolf	Mother McAuley HS	Chicago
Bonita	Worthington	United HS	Little York
Megan	Wright	Morton HS	Morton
Molly	Zajac-Clark	Morton West HS	Berwyn
Savannah	Zeien	Belvidere North HS	Rockford