



NEWS RELEASE

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COLLEGE BOARD ARKANSAS ADVANCED PLACEMENT SCHOLARS

Nearly 2,000 students in 82 Arkansas public high schools have earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) Exams. The list of 1,175 students is available at the Arkansas Department of Education Web site: ArkansasEd.org.

"I commend these students for pursuing the most rigorous courses in the high school curriculum," said Dr. Ken James, Commissioner of Education. "All students who take AP classes in high school are much more likely to succeed once they enter college. That's especially true for these students who scored so well on their AP Exams."

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program offers students the opportunity to take challenging college-level courses while still in high school, and to receive college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. About 18 percent of the more than 1.3 million high school students in 16,000 secondary schools worldwide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to merit the recognition of AP Scholar.

Students took AP Exams in May 2006 after completing challenging college-level courses at their high schools. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on student's performance on AP exams:

- The National AP Scholar Award is awarded to students who earn an average grade of 4 or higher on a 5-point scale on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.
- The AP State Scholar Award is granted to the one male and one female student in each U.S. State and the District of Columbia with grades of 3 or higher on the greatest number of AP Exams (at least three exams), and then the highest average grade (at least 3.5) on all AP Exams taken. The Arkansas winners were Faye Zhao and Don Ding, both in the 2006 graduating class at Little Rock Central High School.
- The AP Scholar with Distinction Award is awarded to students earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.
- The AP Scholar with Honor Award is granted to students earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.
- The AP Scholar Award is awarded to students completing three or more AP Exams, with grades of 3 or higher.

All 300 or so of the state's high schools are to offer an AP course in the four core subjects of English, science, social studies and mathematics by the 2008-2009 school year. The state also pays for students to take the AP exam. Just last month, College Board recognized Arkansas as a national model for states to follow to increase student access to and success in AP courses. Arkansas also led the nation in the increase in scores of 3 or higher on AP exams in 2006.

Most of the nation's colleges and universities award credit, advanced placement, or both based on successful performance on the AP Exams. More than 1,400 institutions award a full year's credit (sophomore standing) to students presenting a sufficient number of qualifying grades. In 2006, thirty-five AP Exams were offered in a wide variety of subject areas, each consisting of multiple-choice and free-response (essay or problem-solving) questions (except for the Studio Art exam which evaluates students' original artwork).

The College Board is a not-for-profit membership organization whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the association is composed of more than 5,000 schools, colleges, universities, and other educational organizations. Each year, the College Board serves seven million students and their parents, 23,000 high schools, and 3,500 colleges through major

programs and services in college admissions, guidance, assessment, financial aid, enrollment, and teaching and learning. Among its best-known programs are the SAT, the PSAT/NMSQT, and the Advanced Placement Program.

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The Arkansas Department of Education strives to ensure that all children in the state have access to a quality education by providing educators, administrators and staff with leadership, resources and training.