



GOVERNOR RICK PERRY and U.S. CONGRESSMAN MICHAEL C. BURGESS TO ADDRESS WESTLAKE ACADEMY'S FIRST GRADUATING CLASS AT COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Additional participants include Texas Education Agency Commissioner Robert Scott, State Representative Vicki Truitt, Mayor Laura Wheat and other local dignitaries

Westlake, Texas - May 11, 2010 -Commencement services for the **first graduating class of Westlake Academy**, a community-owned International Baccalaureate (IB) public charter school founded in 2003, will take place on Sunday, May 23, at 2 p.m., at the Marriott Solana in Westlake Town Center. **Governor Rick Perry** will provide the Governor's Address and **U.S. Congressman Michael C. Burgess** will provide the Congressional Address to the 24 graduating seniors of Westlake Academy, the first and only municipality in Texas to receive a charter designation. Also participating in the ceremony are Texas Education Agency Commissioner Robert Scott, State Representative Vicki Truitt, and Mayor Laura Wheat with special guests including Tarrant County Commissioner Gary Fickes, the Town Council/Trustees, former Board of Aldermen/Trustees, and former Westlake Mayor Scott Bradley.

"We are delighted to have Gov. Perry, Congressman Burgess, and Commissioner Robert Scott along with the other dignitaries and special guests attending and participating in this landmark occasion in the life of Westlake Academy," said Tom Brymer, CEO of Westlake Academy and Town Manager. "Our seniors have worked hard, which is evident in their academic successes as well as in the passion and respect they have developed for the world around them. Without question, they are leaders of tomorrow, and we wish them the very best as they begin this next chapter in their lives."

The 24 graduating seniors have been **offered over \$3.7 million in scholarships/grants**, and 100 percent have been accepted to colleges and universities, including Baylor, John V. Roach Honors College-TCU, Bentley, Boston University, Brandeis, Drury, Emory, Pepperdine, Northeastern, New York University, Reed, Southern Methodist University, Cox School of Business-SMU, Honors College-SMU, Southwestern at Georgetown, St. John's College, Texas

A&M, Trinity, Texas Christian University, Tulane, Washington University, University of Sheffield in England, University of Texas at Austin, University of Virginia, University of Texas at Dallas, and many others.

“This first commencement ceremony for Westlake Academy - *the only municipally owned charter school in the state of Texas* - is a significant day and celebration not only in the lives of those who will soon be our first alumni, but also for the citizens of Westlake and surrounding areas,” said Mayor Laura Wheat, Town of Westlake, and President of the Board of Trustees, Westlake Academy. “This exciting day would not be possible without the ongoing support of our citizens and Academy parents, and on behalf of the Town, we offer our deepest gratitude.”

The Class of 2010 and the cities in which they reside and colleges they will attend are as follows:

(Westlake)

Bailey Cockrum - University of Colorado-Boulder

Olivia Flowers - Blinn College-Bryan

(Keller)

Brooke Awtry - Honors College - SMU; wait listed-Vanderbilt

Elena Ceballos - University of North Texas

Chelsea Cooper - Blinn TEAM (Transfer Enrollment at A&M)

Tim Drews -Tarrant County College

Josh Frey - Austin College

James Grover - Oklahoma State University

Viky Kalyta - University of Texas - Austin

Christina Kolokotroni - Brandeis

Sean Kennedy - University of Texas - Dallas

Connor Lenio - Washington University; wait-listed Dartmouth

Samantha Moon - Southern Methodist University

Shivam Purohit - UT-Austin; wait-listed Columbia

Kali Spates - Texas Tech

(Trophy Club)

Kent Bordelon - Austin College

Alexandra Champagne - Texas Christian University

Erik Herbst - University of Texas-Austin (Plan II)

(Colleyville)

Anisha Chandra - Cox School of Business - SMU; wait-listed Emory

(Roanoke)

Stephanie Schultz - University of Texas - Austin

Corey Lenkiewicz - Midwestern State

(Southlake)

Tyler Springer - Cox School of Business - SMU

(Boyd)

Ryen DeGan - Midwestern State

(Flower Mound)

Yasya Vasyutynska - Boston University

The International Baccalaureate curriculum has a hard-earned reputation for quality, high standards, and pedagogical leadership. It promotes intercultural understanding and respect, not as an alternative to sense of culture and national identity, but as an essential part of life in the 21st century. By promoting independent thinkers, the IB curriculum helps students see how the world around them works, preparing them to become active participants as well as agents of positive change. Its challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment are recognized by universities around the world.

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Westlake Academy is a public charter school offering the International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum. Founded in 2003, with a mission to achieve academic excellence and to develop life-long learners who become well-balanced, responsible global citizens, it is the first and only municipality in the state to receive a charter designation. Westlake Academy is the fifth school of only ten schools in the United States - and the only public school - to offer the full IB curriculum for grades K-12. The school will graduate its first class in 2010. For 2009, the Academy received an 'Exemplary' rating from TEA for the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) tests, the third time it has achieved this. It is located at 2600 Ottinger Rd., Westlake, TX 76262. Call 817-490-5757, visit www.westlakeacademy.org or email info@westlakeacademy.org for more information.