

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Alina Fernandez Maldonado  
THE HIGHLANDS SCHOOL  
214-906-2214  
Fax: 972-721-1691  
[amaldonado@thehighlandsschool.org](mailto:amaldonado@thehighlandsschool.org)  
[mfarris@THEHIGHLANDSSCHOOL.org](mailto:mfarris@THEHIGHLANDSSCHOOL.org)  
<http://www.THEHIGHLANDSSCHOOL.org>

### **LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS EXCEL**

(Irving, Texas.-May 1, 2009) –Spanish language students from The Highlands School attained national recognition for performance on the 2009 National Spanish Examination (NSE). This exam measures competency in Spanish listening comprehension, grammar, writing, vocabulary, and reading comprehension. The two-part four hundred point exam includes six levels with multiple categories within each level (**Regular**-no prior exposure to Spanish, **Outside Experience**-students with additional exposure to the language, and **Bi-lingual/Native**). Students who received first place will be invited to compete for one of two scholarships, a travel and study-abroad scholarship to Salamanca, Spain, or a \$1000 college scholarship. This interview will take place in the October and is given by the local chapter of AATSP.

The students earned two Gold, three Silver, and one Bronze medal, along with fifteen Honorable Mention awards. “Attaining a medal or Honorable Mention for any student on the NSE is very prestigious,” said Kevin Cessna-Buscemi, NSE National Director, “because the exams are the largest of their kind in the United States with well over 115,000 students participating in 2009.”

Awards were distributed to the students as follows:

#### **Level 01/1**

2<sup>nd</sup> Place/Silver Medal - Lucy Bray

#### **Level 2**

3<sup>rd</sup> Place/Bronze Medal - Andy McCleneghen

#### **Level 3/Bi-lingual -Native Speaker**

1<sup>st</sup> Place/Gold Medal/Scholarship Nominee

Aranza Mayagoitia

2<sup>nd</sup> Place /Silver Medal

Francisco Arreola

Emilio Mayagoitia

#### **Level 4/Bi-lingual -Native Speaker**

1<sup>st</sup> Place/Gold Medal/Scholarship Nominee - Juan Carlos Mayagoitia

Students from The Highlands School have a long history of high achievement on these highly competitive exams, including five study abroad scholarship recipients to Mexico and Spain.

### **About The Highlands School**

Established in 1986, The Highlands School is a Catholic college-preparatory school. Offering grades Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup>, the mission of The Highlands School is to provide the highest quality education and integral formation of the student as a well-rounded mature youth of character and integrity. Personalized attention from faculty, staff, and religious provides each student with the maximum opportunity for growth.

###

For additional information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with Mr. John Borley, please call Chris Hannis, Director of Development, at 972-438-8218 ext. 261 or e-mail Chris at [channis@thehighlandsschool.org](mailto:channis@thehighlandsschool.org)