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**Who's Who of Tampa Bay Business Community to present  
25 College Scholarships**

**TAMPA, FL – April 14, 2008** – Twenty-five Hillsborough County high school seniors will be awarded college scholarships from the Tampa Bay WorkForce Alliance (TBWA) at an awards reception on Thursday, April 17, 2008 at Maestro's at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center (1010 N.W.C. MacInnes Pl, Tampa, FL). Mario Diaz of Tampa Bay's 10 News will host the awards reception. Twenty-five presenters from the Tampa business community will present the scholarships.

In keeping with its mission of developing workforce talent to foster economic development, TBWA prepares youth for an increasing demand of higher educated workers in the Tampa Bay region. For the past four years TBWA has invested in a total of 79 scholarships, valued at more than \$400,000.

In addition to providing financial support, the program helps to prepare the talent pipeline via workshops and access to mentoring, internship, and networking opportunities with local business leaders. Through alliances with local businesses, economic development organizations, community organizations, and individuals, TBWA links scholars with opportunities to enhance their preparation and increase their chances to join the workforce in our local region.

**2008 Scholar Presenters:**

Simone Gans Barefield, Principal of Gans Gans and Associates

Gordon Yates, COO Pappas' Market Cafe

Rick Lott, Plant City Mayor & CEP of Zeno Solutions

John Ramil, President & CEO TECO

Jose Valiente, Valiente Hernandez, PA

Deborah Edgecomb, Hillsborough County School Board

Bridgette Mill, Publisher Tampa Bay Business Journal

Michele Pryor, Bank of Tampa

Linda Devine, VP of Operations University of Tampa  
Janet McNew, Provost University of Tampa  
Stuart Rogel, President & CEO Tampa Bay Partnership  
Kim Sheeler, President Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce  
William McHugh, CEO Amerigroup  
Alexis Muellner, Editor in Chief, Tampa Bay Business Journal  
Scott Garrison, Associate Publisher, Smart Business Magazine  
Penelope Dixon, Partner at Carlton Fields  
Nagi Kumar, Researcher & Professor at Moffitt Cancer Center  
Lorena Webb, Recruiter Mission Critical Solutions  
Braulio Colon, ENLACE Asst Director at University of South Florida  
Craig Johnson, VP of Academics Hillsborough Community College  
Brian Lamb, COO Fifth Third Bank  
Juan Davis, President Tampa T-Shirts Inc  
Tom Stewart, COO Town & Country Hospital  
Anthony Sierra, ATA Construction  
Dale Schumacher, President Tampa Bay Federal Credit Union

**2008 Tampa Bay WorkForce Alliance Scholars:**

Sapphire Johnson - Armwood High School  
Shambrey Oliver - Armwood High School  
Pablo Rivera - Freedom High School  
Laura Zarrate - Freedom High School  
Angielique Ramirez - Gaither High School  
Devin McNish - Hillsborough High School  
Shazia Mitha - Hillsborough High School  
Carlos Valdes - Hillsborough High School  
Zumaly Dixon - King High School  
Andrea Reyes - King High School  
Gleneda Joseph - Leto High School  
Monique Parker - Middleton High School  
Sheena Smith - Middleton High School  
Roderick Henderson- Plant City High School  
Aaron Driscoll - Plant City High School  
Phillip Ondrovic - Plant City High School  
Steven Mitchell - Plant City High School  
Eddie Emilut - Plant City High School  
Jessica Ardon - Riverview High School

Katelyn Randall - Riverview High School  
Megan Hicklin - Robinson High School  
Ricardo Navarro - Robinson High School  
Britany Kendrick – Tampa Bay Tech High School  
Michael Martinez - Simmons Career Center  
Veronica Maldonado -Wharton High School

About Tampa Bay WorkForce Alliance

TBWA works with businesses and job candidates to leverage the training, retraining and competitive opportunities of employees in the workforce. Nearly 100,000 job candidates annually access TBWA, the single largest source of job candidates in the region. Thousands of businesses annually access TBWA's wide range of services, including employee recruiting; customized training; targeted career fairs; workshops and business seminars; and retention support strategies. TBWA is a member of the Employ Florida network of workforce services and resources.

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TBWA is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. TDD/TYY (813) 930-7699