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**TAMPA BAY YOUTH LEADERS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**  
*Program creates and keeps educated workers in Bay area*

**TAMPA, Fla. – April 24, 2009** – Creating and keeping an educated workforce is the key to fostering economic development. Tampa Bay WorkForce Alliance (TBWA) is helping to create an educated workforce in Hillsborough County through its Scholars program, which prepares high school graduates to compete amid increasing demand for higher-educated talent in this region. Thursday evening, TBWA recognized 24 Hillsborough County high school seniors and awarded them scholarships for their hard work and achievement during a reception at the InterContinental Tampa Hotel.

Le'Amber Dunn is just one example of the hard-working students being recognized with a TBWA Scholars award. Le'Amber has devoted more than 75 hours of community service to assisting the elderly with housekeeping. Her dedication earned her the Young Ladies Ministries' Lady of the Year award. Le'Amber, a high honor roll student at Durant High School, plans to attend Spelman College to study mathematics and educational studies.

Another student who exemplifies the achievement being honored by the TBWA Scholars program is Safi Ullah. Fluent in four languages, Safi can also read Arabic. He is among the top five percent of his class at King High School. Safi is a hard worker outside of school as well and has been recognized as Employee of the Month at both the Museum of Science and Industry and the Temple Terrace Library. He plans to attend the University of South Florida to study biomedical science.

The TBWA Scholars program awards college scholarships to students who excel in their studies and exhibit dedication to their families and communities. The program also seeks to keep educated workers here in the Tampa Bay area.

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“Tampa Bay is the top choice for many industries in bioscience, finance and professional services, aviation and other industries requiring a talented and educated labor pool,” says Reneé Gilmore, TBWA president and CEO. “Our goal is to cultivate that talent for our region’s advantage. “

To be eligible for the TBWA Scholars Program, students must be accepted to an approved Florida Prepaid college or institution of higher learning at the time of award.

The 2009 TBWA Scholars program scholarship award recipients are:

Damian Ash - South County Career Center  
Davalda Bellot - Leto High School  
Anaidiel Beltran - Hillsborough High School  
Jessica Bush - Armwood High School  
Le'Amber Dunn - Durant High School  
Agustin Guerrero - Brandon High School  
Phalicia Jancaitis - Gaither High School  
Laquida Jennings - Jefferson High School  
Arielle Keith - Tampa Bay Technical High School  
Shakea Kindred - Spoto High School  
Amber Lancaster - Riverview High School  
David Le - Robinson High School  
Christopher Lockwood - Freedom High School  
Andrew Mikhail - Wharton High School  
Joshala Peterson - Middleton High School  
Edmund Rosenbaum - Plant City High School  
Nataly Sedler - Alonso High School  
Vianca Simpson - H.B. Plant High School  
Jessica Slater - Blake High School  
Ashley Stollings - Sickles High School  
Safi Ullah - King High School  
Alishan Vazir - King High School  
Morgan Williams - East Bay High School  
Samantha Wilson - Bloomingdale High School

The TBWA Scholars reception featured some of Tampa's top business leaders, including: John Ramil, president and COO, TECO Energy; Major Jeff Krusinski, Commander, 6th Force Support Squadron, 6th Air Mobility Wing, MacDill Air Force Base and member, TBWA Board of Directors; and Ron Smith, vice president of Sales Operations, FISERV, INC., and treasurer, TBWA Board of Directors. The ceremony was hosted by Beau Zimmer of 10 Connects.

#### About Tampa Bay WorkForce Alliance

Tampa Bay WorkForce Alliance works with businesses and candidates to leverage their training, retraining and competitive opportunities in the workforce. With nearly 100,000 job candidates annually accessing its three career centers, TBWA is the single largest source of job candidates in the region. Businesses annually access TBWA's wide range of services that include employee recruiting; training; targeted career fairs and hiring events; workshops and business seminars; and retention support strategies. Tampa Bay WorkForce Alliance is a member of the Employ Florida statewide network of workforce services and resources.

*Tampa Bay WorkForce Alliance is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities TDD/TTY 813-930-7699.*

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