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NEWS RELEASE

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Two New Mexico Students Selected as 2010 Presidential Scholars By US Department of Education

(Santa Fe, NM) - Education Secretary Dr. Veronica C. García congratulated the two New Mexico graduating seniors selected as 2010 Presidential Scholars in the United States Department of Education's Presidential Scholars Program and will be honored in Washington, D.C this weekend.

Steven M. Ammerman, La Cueva High School, and Erin A. Mauldin, Albuquerque High School were selected for the prestigious honor on the basis of their demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, leadership, citizenship, and community service.

"Steven and Erin are nationally recognized for their leadership and academic achievement," said Secretary García. "They are role models for all students and demonstrate that an excellent education can be obtained in New Mexico schools."

Three students, in addition to the Presidential Scholars, were named as semifinalists in the 2010 program. They are Erika A. DeBenedictis, Albuquerque Academy, Yousuf Qaseem, Eldorado High School, and Emma C. Carroll, Los Alamos High School.

Since 1983, each Presidential Scholar has invited his or her most inspiring and challenging teacher to travel to Washington, D.C., to receive a Teacher Recognition Award from the U.S. Department of Education and to participate in the recognition events. Invited to this year's events are Jason DeWitte, La Cueva High School, biology teacher, nominated by Steven Ammerman and Scot Key, Jefferson Middle School, humanities teacher, nominated by Erin Mauldin.

A 29 member Commission on Presidential Scholars appointed by the President selected the scholars based on their academic success, artistic excellence, essays, school evaluations and transcripts, as well as evidence of community service, leadership and demonstrated commitment to high ideals.

Over 2,700 candidates qualified on the basis of ACT or SAT scores and only 550 semifinalists were selected from across the county. The program was established by Executive Order in 1964 to honor academic achievement by graduating high school seniors.

For a complete list of 2010 Presidential Scholars and more information on the program go to:
<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/psp/awards.html> or
<http://www2.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2010/05/05032010.html>

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