

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dr. Margaret E. Haun
305-365-6278
margarethaun@dadeschools.net

MAST Students in the News

Nine MAST Academy seniors have been invited to continue in Semifinalist round of the Posse Miami scholarship competition. They are **Gonzalo Gambino, Candy Gonzalez, Jabari Lee, Max Mucenic, Alyssa Nelson, Crystal Reed, Asim Syed, Simmiya Tasnim, and Raquel Wollaston.** Students must now provide a transcript, samples of evaluated written work, SAT or ACT scores, and projects—described in the Posse literature as “cool”—that might distinguish them from other scholarship contenders. Students who get the final Posse nod will receive scholarships to the University of Pennsylvania, Wellesley College, or Hamilton College.

Eighty-six MAST Academy students have been named **Advanced Placement Scholars** by the AP Program of the College Board. Among that number are six **National Scholars**, students who earned a score of 4 or higher (on a 5-point scale) on eight or more AP exams. Twenty-five (25) students were named **AP Scholars with Distinction** for scoring a 3 or higher on at least five AP exams. Eighteen (18) students were named **AP Scholars with Honors** after earning an average score of 3 or higher on four of the exams. Forty-three (43) students were named **AP Scholars** for earning scores of 3 or higher on at least three AP exams.

MAST has just completed its **fourth major college event since August.** Before the start of school—hundreds of seniors and their parents attended an evening program to learn about 1) changes to Florida Bright Futures, 2) determining the best “college fit,” 3) opportunities in both the Miami-Dade Honors College program and the FIU Scholars Program, 4) the total financial aid process, and 4) producing strong and creative college applications. In September, juniors and their parents attended an event designed to introduce them to *Naviance*, a comprehensive web-based tool that streamlines the college application process and provides essential information en route. Juniors also heard experts talk about the importance of course selection, taking on high school leadership roles, test prep tips, and beginning the college search process early. On October 14th, while students in grades 9-11 took the PSAT, seniors heard college counselors from across South Florida talk about college application components, such as the resume, the personal experience essay, and the teacher recommendation. Speakers also addressed a range of issues related to the transition from high school to college. The **major college event of the year**, though, took place on Tuesday, October 20th, when 60 colleges and universities from *across the country* converged on MAST for a College Fair. Concurrent sessions covered a wide range of topics, from financial aid, the transition to college, finding the best college fit, and timelines for freshman through junior year.

Senior **Giuliana Toscani** has won **FIRST PLACE** in the Senior High Category of the **Cervantes Student Essay Contest.** Guliana’s essay, *How My Education Has Made Me Proud of My Hispanic Heritage*, addresses in particular her deep pride in her Costa Rican family roots.

Two MAST seniors—**Zijun Liu** and **Summiya Tasnim**—have won scholarships from the *Asian American Advisory Board.* Both students were honored at a reception on November 1st at University of Miami’s Storer Auditorium.

MAST Academy is one of only 38 high schools featured in **Creating College Readiness: Profiles of 38 Schools That Know How**, a publication of the *Educational Policy Improvement Center (EPIC)*, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The document looks at performance expectations, school partnerships, student and parent satisfaction, attendance rates, school size, curriculum, graduation rates, and building design and resources.

###

