



# PRESS RELEASE

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**CICELY SHANNON, TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR,  
SELECTED AS FINALIST FOR 2011 COCA-COLA SCHOLARSHIP**



**Texarkana, TX** – Cicely Shannon, a dynamic senior from Texas High School, has been selected as a member of the 2011 Class of Coca-Cola Scholars. She was selected as a Finalist from more than 2,100 semifinalists for having demonstrated academic excellence, leadership and community involvement epitomized by past winners of this scholarship.

Shannon is one of 252 high school seniors selected nationwide to compete for a scholarship from the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. On April 14, Shannon will join other finalists as they travel to Atlanta, Georgia, the international headquarters of The Coca-Cola Company, to compete for 52 four-year college scholarships of \$20,000 and 200 four-year scholarships of \$10,000.

“As a leading scholarship provider, we recognize our role in helping young people achieve their college goals,” said Mark Davis, president of the Foundation. “With the economy continuing to affect many students ability to attend college of their choice, it is critical that we stay the courses. The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation received nearly 71,000 applications this year and our finalists are truly some of the most accomplished students in the country.”

Over the four-day weekend, the finalists will interview with a National Selection Committee, tour local landmarks, engage with former Coca-Cola Scholars and participate in a range of activities including a community service project. The 2011 Class of Coca-Cola Scholars will also be the guest of honor at the annual Scholars Banquet which will not only celebrate their great accomplishments, but also celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. Joining in the celebration will be representatives from the Coca-Cola System, educators, local dignitaries and friends of the Scholars Foundation.

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Cicely has also been named an AP Scholar, National Merit Commended Scholar and National Achievement Scholar. Since her freshman year, she has received twenty-one Academic Achievement Awards as well as the Award of Excellence in Foreign Language. Her extracurricular involvements include: Student Council, Debate Club, Rosebud Honor Society, National Honor Society, French Club, Key Club, Quill & Scroll Honor Society, Girl Scouts of America, Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society, Band, Color Guard, Students Against Destructive Decisions, UIL Literary Criticism, UIL Debate, Jack & Jill of America, Calculus Club, Journalism, Texas Girl's State Citizen and People to People Ambassador. Cicely has dedicated herself to 728 hours of community service in the Texarkana community. For her efforts, she has received the Rotary Club Character Award, the Jack & Jill Youth Community Service Award, multiple awards from the Girl Scouts of America including the Safety Award, Program Aide Award, Career Award, Top Service Unit Cookie Seller, Silver Award and Gold Award. She is also a recipient of two President's Community Service Awards for 2008 and 2009.

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation is one of the most-recognized and respected achievement based scholarship in America. It was created in 1986 to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Coca-Cola and to establish a legacy for the education of tomorrow's leaders through college scholarships. Including the 2011 Class of Scholars, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation has provided nearly 4,800 young scholars nationwide with nearly \$45 million since the Foundation's inception. The program is open to all high school seniors in the United States from 26,000 high schools. Coca-Cola Scholars come from all 50 states and approximately 40% are minorities.

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