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The Jackson Independent

Gala to honor Scholarship recipients

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On June 5, 2010, Greater North Louisiana CDC (GNL-CDC), Jackson Parish NAACP, and EXCO Operating Company LLC (EXCO) will host the inaugural Hand-up to Opportunities, Purpose and Empowerment (HOPE) Community Tuition Scholarship Gala. The invitation only black-tie event is being held in honor of the academic achievement and excellence of six graduates of the Jonesboro-Hodge High school class of 2010 whom have shown exemplary academic achievement. Of the six scholarships being awarded, three are \$1,000

scholarships and three are \$2,500 scholarships.

The 2010 HOPE Scholarship recipients are: Rachel Belton, Lakeita Bradley, Lakeysha Brown, Erik Hopkins, Ineshia Marsh and LaPashen Robinson.

The HOPE Inaugural Scholarship Gala will be held at the Jackson Parish Community Center where EXCO executive, Harold Hickey and interim Grambling State University President, Dr. Frank G. Pogue are slated to speak words of encouragement and congratulations to the graduates. Windy Calahan, President, Jackson Parish NAACP said, "The scholarships are long overdue and the Jackson Parish NAACP is very proud to be a part of an activity that truly makes a difference when it comes to saving

our kids."

Janice M. Simmons, CEO, GNL/CDC said "I am proud of the HOPE recipients and I am equally as proud of the collaborative that is working together to make this program successful for our students. Often the difference between failure and success is as simple as a hand-up and that is what we are endeavoring to provide through this program. Working together makes the difference."

The HOPE scholarship criteria focuses largely on academic achievement and potential success of the applicants. Some of the criterion states that all applicants be accepted to a university and have an ACT score required for acceptance to the university of the applicant's choice.



Hopkins



Marsh



Bradley



Robinson



Brown



Belton