



PRESS RELEASE

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HSPVA Student Named as Presidential Scholar

Senior to be honored in D.C. and will perform at Kennedy Center

May 25, 2009—For the past four years, 18 year-old Robert Moore has had to balance his passion and love for dancing while taking math, science and AP classes at HISD’s High School for the Visual and Performing Arts. “It wasn’t always easy,” admits the graduating senior. “But I think intellect enhances one’s understanding of the arts.” Moore’s balancing act has paid off. He is one of only 141 high school seniors nationwide chosen to receive the prestigious U.S. Presidential Scholarship.

The U.S. Presidential Scholars program recognizes and honors some of the nation’s most distinguished graduating high school seniors. Of the 141 scholars, 121 are chosen in the academics, but another 20 are chosen for a combination of academic and artistic ability in the visual or performing arts. “Robert is a like dry sponge,” says HSPVA dance teacher LuAnne Carter. “He soaks up everything he can whether it’s dancing or academics.”

Moore is graduating with a 4.06 grade point average and ranks 23rd in his class. In addition to practicing and rehearsing three hours every day while maintaining his grade point average, the senior commuted from his parent’s home in Porter, Texas, a nearly hour long drive each way. “I just thought of myself as any other commuter driving to downtown Houston. Plus I’ve always liked the city better than the suburbs,” he laughs. Moore will get a taste of big city life in the fall as he moves from Porter to New York City to study dance at the Juilliard School. He hopes to one day join a professional troupe to dance and choreograph as well as open his own school in the future.

Before he heads off to college though, he and the rest of the presidential scholars will receive an all expense paid trip to Washington D.C in June. During the trip, Moore will meet with government officials, educators, authors, musicians, scientists and other accomplished people as well as attend a White House sponsored reception where he will receive a Presidential Scholar medallion. But the highlight of the trip will be performing at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in front of President Obama and the First Lady. “I am so excited to be performing at the venue. I have never been there and I hear it’s fantastic,” he says.

HSPVA encourages all its students to apply for the U.S. Presidential Scholars program. “It really is built into our curriculum, to blend academics and the arts,” says Principal Scott Allen. “In fact, HSPVA has had more Presidential Scholars in the Arts than any other school in the nation. We hope to have more that follow in Robert’s footsteps...or should I say dance steps!”