

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Toni A. Smith 240.274.9748 tsmith@inreachinc.org

NONPROFIT AWARDS FIRST SCHOLARSHIPS TO NORTHWESTERN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Hyattsville, MD, May 12, 2006—IN REACH, INC., awarded its first scholarships to eight seniors at Northwestern's Annual Senior Awards Ceremony, all members of its YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL. Recipients were selected based on their length of involvement in the program, participation, attendance, leadership and acceptance into a four-year institution of higher education. The Heavenly Eight as they are affectionately known, the university each will attend, their intended major, and career aspirations are as follows:

- Tania Anderson—University of Maryland, Pre-Medicine, Pediatrician
- Giselle Denbow—Cornell University, Fine Arts/Business Administration, Web & Graphic Design Business Entrepreneur
- Krizia Fernandez—Towson University, Early Childhood Education, Kindergarten Teacher
- Tanaya Gable—Lincoln University, Journalism
- Kendra Lewis—Bowie State University, Social Work
- Keiry Nunez—New York Institute of Technology, Architecture
- Shristi Singh—University of Maryland, Accounting and International Business, Chief Executive Officer
- Jasmine Smith—Philadelphia University, Interior Design

The remaining nine seniors—Destiny Banks, Cheri Brunson, Charles Bunn, Randy Cort, Maurissa Matthews, Madeline Ortiz, Cory Rodriguez, Tyrell Smith, and Shavonney White—have either been accepted into a four-year institution or plan to attend community college in the fall. Five of the seventeen seniors are in the top 5% of their class. Many of them received several scholarships and awards.

"For the past three years, it has been my vision to be able to offer graduating seniors of the YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL some type of award/scholarship and finally it has happened," shared IN REACH'S founder and president. "My only wish now is to be able to offer more. These students deserve every penny they receive."

Focusing on the future, **IN REACH** partners with Northwestern High School to implement the **Y**OUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL, a school-based program that focuses on college preparation, community service and building life-skills.

IN REACH, Inc., is a youth-driven, community-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization positioned to respond to the unmet developmental and academic needs of adolescent and older youth living in Prince George's County, Maryland. Its mission is to engage young people, their families, educators and communities in the pursuit of successful youth development, a springboard to academic excellence. For more information about **IN REACH** and its programs visit *www.inreachinc.org*.

Scholarships were made possible by the Action Fund for District 2 of the Prince George's Community Foundation, Karen Towles, Linda Carlos, Tanya N.R. Jackson, and Sheila Taylor-Means.

#