



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**University of St. Thomas Student Given
Scholarship for Service**

HOUSTON (Aug. 29, 2006)— Luis Versalles, an incoming freshman at the University of St. Thomas, is this year's winner of the largest scholarship award given by the National Hispanic Institute and Wachovia for outstanding Latino students. Versalles was among 14 students statewide to receive \$20,000 in scholarship monies to use at the university of their choice.

“These students represent a group of 14 young people, selected from an excellent pool of applications, who show a special aptitude for leadership,” said Ray Ocanas of Wachovia.

“Versalles was chosen because of his outstanding community service and leadership qualities,” said Nicole Sada, vice president of field operations for NHI.

Versalles, who will study business and political science, came to UST to hone his leadership skills. “I knew University of St. Thomas prides itself on educating leaders of faith and character – here, I want to strengthen my faith and morals, and to become more articulate about issues,” said Versalles. “Then I want to apply these lessons to my life.”

For 27 years, the NHI has worked to teach high-potential Latino youth the skills and the mindset they need to become leaders in the Latino community. NHI was established in 1979 by Ernesto Neito in Maxwell, Texas, and has offices around the country with programs held nationally and internationally. Ninety-five percent of NHI alumni enroll at four-year colleges after graduating from high school.

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