

AGENDA ITEM 5.

PRESENTATION BY GOLDEN APPLE SCHOLARS OF ILLINOIS

Submitted for: Information

Summary: Created in 1988 by the award-winning teachers of the Golden Apple Foundation, the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois program recruits and prepares bright and talented high school graduates who represent a rich ethnic diversity for successful teaching careers in high need schools throughout Illinois and provides scholarships to students pursuing teaching degrees.

The Golden Apple Foundation is a not-for-profit organization based in Chicago. The foundation promotes excellence in Pre-K through 12 education through the work of excellent teachers. Golden Apple Scholars receive mentoring support from outstanding, award-winning teachers who are part of the Golden Apple network.

Each year, ISAC receives funding for the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois program through an appropriation entitled the Illinois Scholars Program. In addition, as of January 2009, Public Act 095-0939 required the annual allocation of 200 Illinois Future Teacher Corps (IFTC) Program awards to participants in the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois program.

Eligibility

Any Illinois high school student is eligible for consideration for the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois program. The Golden Apple Foundation makes and announces Golden Apple Scholar awards during the spring of each year.

A limited number of positions in the program are also open to college sophomores in attendance at one of the 53 Illinois colleges and universities that partner in the program. Candidates who are college sophomores must be nominated by the liaison of a participating university.

In exchange for successful completion of undergraduate college and a commitment to teach for five years in an Illinois school of need, Scholars receive financial assistance for four years to attend one of the 53 public and private universities across the state and take part in the summer programs that include teaching internships and enhanced teacher preparation.

Action requested: None