



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

May 2, 2011

Mr. Akshay Save
375 Brentwood Club Cove
Longwood, FL 32750-3353

Dear Akshay:

I am pleased to congratulate you on your selection to the U.S. Presidential Scholars Class of 2011!

President Barack Obama has said, "Your future is in your hands. Your life is what you make of it. And nothing -- absolutely nothing -- is beyond your reach, so long as you're willing to dream big, so long as you're willing to work hard." I could not agree more with the President. Your achievement serves as an inspiration to others to make the most of their education, to set lofty goals, and to work hard to reach them. The accomplishments for which we are honoring you are creating the foundation for future successes.

I also extend many thanks to your family, your teachers, and your community for helping you along the way. As you accept this recognition, I ask you to continue to serve your community and your nation with what you learn. We are proud of your accomplishments and dedication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arne Duncan", is positioned above the printed name.

Arne Duncan



FOR RELEASE
May 2, 2011

Media Contact: David Thomas
202-401-1579
Program Contact: Simone Olson
202-401-0961

**AKSHAY SAVE OF LONGWOOD, FLORIDA
NAMED 2011 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR**

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan today announced the selection of Akshay V. Save of Longwood, Florida who attends Lake Mary High School in Lake Mary, as a 2011 U.S. Presidential Scholar.

Save is one of 141 outstanding American high school seniors that have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, artistic excellence, leadership, citizenship, service, and contribution to school and community. The U.S. Presidential Scholars will be honored for their accomplishments in Washington D.C., from June 18-21.

“The U.S. Presidential Scholars exemplify what dedication to achievement and setting high standards can symbolize for all youth,” Duncan said. “The Department of Education congratulates these students on their artistic and academic accomplishments.”

The 141 U.S. Presidential Scholars include one young man and one young woman from each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and from U.S. families living abroad, as well as 15 chosen at-large and 20 Presidential Scholars in the Arts. The White House Commission on Presidential Scholars appointed by the President selected the scholars based on their academic success, artistic excellence, essays, school evaluations and transcripts, as well as evidence of community service, leadership, and demonstrated commitment to high ideals.

For the past 47 years, this prestigious program has honored more than 6,000 of the nation’s top-performing students. Of the three million students expected to graduate from high school this year, more than 3,000 candidates qualified on the basis of outstanding performance on the College Board SAT and ACT exams, or by nomination through the nationwide YoungArts™ competition conducted by the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts. The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was created in 1964 to honor academic achievement. It was expanded in 1979 to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, literary and performing arts.

Since 1983, each Presidential Scholar has invited his or her most inspiring and challenging teacher to travel to Washington, D.C., to receive a Teacher Recognition Award from the U.S. Department of Education and to participate in the recognition events.

The teacher chosen for recognition by Save was Cindy Nelson of Lake Mary High School in Lake Mary, FL.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: A complete list of 2011 Presidential Scholars is available at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/psp/awards.html>.

