



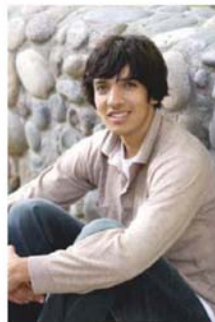
The United Negro College Fund (UNCF) is the administrator of the Gates Millennium Scholars Program.

## Scholarships for our Future Leaders

### Eligibility Criteria

Students are eligible to be considered for a GMS scholarship if they:

- Are African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American or Hispanic American;
- Are a citizen, national or legal permanent resident of the United States;
- Have attained a cumulative GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale (unweighted) or have earned a GED;
- Will be entering a U.S. accredited college or university as full-time, degree-seeking freshmen in the fall;
- Have demonstrated leadership abilities through participation in community service, extra-curricular, or other activities, and
- Meet the Federal Pell Grant eligibility criteria (Eligibility for Federal Pell Grant can only be determined through the submission of a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the U.S. Department of Education).



Dallas Lopez, Pima/Hopi  
Westmont College

"Learn to love learning on your own, then you will find it a joy and a blessing to be learning at college."

For more information on the Gates Millennium Scholars scholarship, visit: [www.gmsp.org](http://www.gmsp.org)

**DEADLINE: JANUARY 12, 2009**

or contact

The American Indian Graduate Center Scholars  
4520 Montgomery Blvd. NE, Suite 1B  
Albuquerque, NM 87109  
(866) 884-7007 • [www.aigcs.org](http://www.aigcs.org)

• GMS Partner for American Indians & Alaska Natives •

## Inspiring Hope Across Alaska – Michael Jerue

In February 2008 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Michael Jerue was selected as the recipient of the *American Indian Graduate Center Scholars (AIGCS) Ambassador of the Year Award*. Criteria for this prestigious honor is given to individuals who demonstrate the inspiration, the knowledge, and the skills to empower American Indian youth to reach their academic dreams and to help them achieve success in their communities and in society.

"I was very proud to be given this award and although it was an exciting time, I was more proud of the increased representation of Alaskan Natives in the GMS applicant pool," he says.

As a Family Advocate at Diamond High School in Anchorage, Alaska, Michael serves as a liaison between families and schools systems. His role is to help reduce the high drop out rates in the Diamond school district. He also encourages and supports the educational system to enrich Alaskan Native culture throughout various programs.

During his role as a family advocate, Michael traveled to more than 150 Alaskan villages to disseminate information about the GMS program. Michael visited 100 schools and 50 Native corporations.

"My most memorable experience was flying from village to village to inform students about the Gates Millennium Scholarship," Michael says. "The smiles I get from the students and the look of 'hope' on their faces, of going to college, are nourishment for their dreams."

Additionally, Michael advises other ambassadors to share words of wisdom when conducting GMS outreach sessions and to bring other scholarship, college, and financial aid information to share with the students, counselors, and school's personnel.

"Some of our students come from remote areas (or the 'bush' in Alaska) and they receive limited information about the Gates Millennium Scholarship, financial aid, other funding opportunities, etc."

Michael spoke about the importance of fishing and subsistence as he reflected on the Athabaskan culture, beliefs and traditional meanings. During his presentation he shared the following story.

"As part of our fish camp, nothing is wasted and we use everything. That's how we should help our children. Students need to tap into all the resources that are available to them and use our Native ways of knowledge and incorporate their cultural specific activities, skills and competencies to enhance their scholarship applications."

Success of American Indian and Alaska Native people in higher education is dependent on as much information as they can receive about resources that available to them and individuals like Michael Jerue have made a difference in many American Indian Alaska Native youth. ✧