

## **PLD senior snags a Gates Millennium Scholarship**

Jasmine Neal, a senior at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, has been awarded a [Gates Millennium Scholarship](#), which covers all undergraduate and graduate school expenses. Jasmine is one of five winners in Kentucky and 1,000 nationwide out of more than 20,000 applicants.

“Everyone’s in rough times, so I’m really glad to relieve my parents of that financial burden,” said Jasmine, who plans to double-major in sociology and Spanish at the University of Chicago.

The Gates Millennium Scholars program, established in 1999, initially was funded by a \$1 billion grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The goal of the scholarship program is to reduce financial barriers for minority students and provide seamless support from undergraduate through doctoral programs for students entering the target disciplines of education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health and the sciences.

Originally from Columbus, Ohio, Jasmine moved to Lexington in the middle of seventh-grade. She is a member of Dunbar’s Leaders in the Making, the Sisterhood community service group, the Spanish honor society and the Mayor’s Youth Council.

“You have to find what it is that motivates you and drives you. Once you find that passion or interest, just go for it,” she said. “And have fun while doing it. People do their best while having fun.”