

Gustavo Ipiña Memorial Scholarship Media Advisory (May 5, 2009)
For Immediate Release:

**OSCAR MILAN WILL REACH THE “AMERICAN DREAM...NO
MATTER WHAT.”**

On May 5, 2009, the Gustavo Ipiña Memorial Scholarship Fund awarded its fifth scholarship to Woodrow Wilson High School senior, Oscar Milan.

In four years, the Gustavo Ipiña Memorial Scholarship (GIMS) fund has awarded five scholarships totaling \$25,000 to Woodrow Wilson High School graduating seniors. Oscar Milan was the recipient of this year's award. The scholarship was presented by GIMS founders, Taly Haffar and Erin Hendricks. Haffar, a local federal prosecutor with the United States Attorney's Office, and Hendricks, an assistant district attorney in Dallas County, were joined on-stage by Principal Ruth Vail, English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher Marjorie Shaw, Elsa Olvera (one of last year's recipients), as well as Ana and Abigail Ipiña (Gustavo's sister and niece).

This year's winner, Oscar Milan, shares many characteristics of Gustavo Ipiña. Oscar came to the United States with his family when he was in the seventh grade. He is the son of hardworking parents and has two young brothers who look up to him. He wants to make his family proud, but, more importantly, he wants to inspire other students in the Hispanic community by reaching the "American dream...no matter what," as he wrote in his scholarship application. Oscar has made the Honor Roll at Woodrow on several occasions and has been an outstanding member of the Wildcat varsity soccer team for all four years of high school.

Oscar plans on attending Eastfield College this Fall and ultimately intends on majoring in Engineering.

GIMS was created in 2005 in the memory of Gustavo Ipiña, a Woodrow Wilson student who was shot and killed in a road rage incident.

GIMS is a non-profit organization that is funded by charitable donations. An annual art show at Gallery 2910 and a silent auction at Chateau Wine Market have been the cornerstones of the fundraising over the past few years. The goal of GIMS is to raise enough funds to pay for a full four-year education for a graduating Woodrow student each year.

Educating our youth is an integral part of improving our community. GIMS is providing those students who have the passion and desire to achieve higher education with the resources to achieve their goals.