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POINT FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2007 SCHOLAR CLASS

GROWING ORGANIZATION NAMES 38 NEW LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER STUDENTS TO RECEIVE SUBSTANTIAL EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

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Note to Editors: to request high-resolution photos or interviews with a Point Scholar, please call the contacts listed above.

Los Angeles, CA, June 5, 2007...Point Foundation – the nation’s largest publicly-supported organization granting scholarships to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students – today announced awarding the largest number of scholarships in its six-year history. The diverse group of 38 recipients includes many firsts for the organization.

“Since taking the helm at Point earlier this year, I have been pleased with the high caliber and diversity of candidates who applied for support,” said Executive Director Jorge Valencia. “This class represents many ‘firsts’ for the Point Foundation: our first male-to-female transgender Point Scholar, our first Muslim Point Scholar and our first Point Scholars who are also parents. This class expands on the current diversity among our scholars and we are excited to begin working with them,” concluded Valencia.

“As someone new to the scholar selection process, I was immediately struck by the profound impact it has on everyone involved,” commented Valencia. “For example, after the panel interview with a finalist who appeared particularly nervous, I approached him and asked, ‘It wasn’t all that bad, was it?’ The young man replied, ‘No, not really. It is just that I have never been surrounded by so many people who were accepting of me and who simply wanted me to succeed.’” Valencia concluded, “If that does not underscore the importance of our work with these bright and promising individuals, I don’t know what could.”

Point Foundation provides financial support, leadership training, mentoring and hope to LGBT individuals who are marginalized because of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. As of June 2007, a total of 84 Point Scholars will be currently enrolled in school, and 26 alumni will have continued on to pursue their life goals.

In addition to an average scholarship award of \$13,600, Point also provides leadership training and mentoring to its scholars. The Foundation matches each Point Scholar with a mentor who is a highly successful professional in a field related to that particular scholar's area of interest, ranging from the arts, education and other humanities, to business, law and medicine. Point also hosts a leadership conference each year to train scholars in the skills necessary for leadership and success. Including monies spent on mentoring, leadership training and scholarships, Point devotes an average of \$34,000 to supporting each Point Scholar.

Since its inception in 2001, Point Foundation has expanded into an organization with a staff of 12 full time and part time employees and an annual budget of \$2.9 million. The organization recently opened its new headquarters in Los Angeles.

The 2007 Point Scholars are listed below.

Ali Abbas, from Carol Stream, IL, and Beirut, Lebanon, is a Philosophy major at DePaul University in Chicago, IL.

Allan Acevedo, from San Diego, CA, and originally from Guanajuato, Mexico, is majoring in Political Science at San Diego State University in San Diego, CA.

Benjamin Ancher, from Bristol, CT, is majoring in both Communications Studies and Gender & Sexuality Studies at New York University in New York, NY.

Amy Andre, from San Francisco, CA, is an MBA student at the University of California at Berkeley in Berkeley, CA.

Jacob Breslow, from Walnut Creek, CA, is majoring in both Community Studies and Feminist Studies at the University of California at Santa Cruz in Santa Cruz, CA.

Tim Bresnahan, from South Berwick, ME, is a law student at Chicago-Kent School of Law in Chicago, IL.

Ivan Bukta, from Novi Sad, Serbia, is a film student pursuing a Master of Fine Arts at City College of New York in New York, NY.

Jack Cen, from San Francisco, CA, is majoring in Biological Sciences at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA.

Angela Clements, from Elmwood, NE, is a law student at the Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California at Berkeley in Berkeley, CA.

Derrick Clifton, from Chicago, IL, is an undergraduate at Pomona College in Claremont, CA.

Mark Cornelsen, from Ferndale, WA, is majoring in Resort & Commercial Recreation Management at San Francisco State University in San Francisco, CA.

Steve Dry, from Hopkinton, MA, is studying Chemistry and Religion at Emory University in Atlanta, GA.

Daan Erikson, from Providence, RI, originally from Bridgewater, MA, is majoring in both Entertainment Media and Gender & Sexuality Studies at New York University in New York, NY.

Lilia Espinoza, from Chicago, IL, is an undergraduate at Columbia College at Columbia University in New York, NY.

Joe Goldman, from Los Angeles, CA, is studying Political Communication at George Washington University in Washington, DC.

Kim Hackford-Peer, from Brighton, CO, is pursuing a Ph.D. in Education, Culture & Society at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, UT.

Kate Jerman, from Essex Junction, VT, is pursuing a Master of Public Health at Columbia University in New York, NY.

Shaun Kasperbauer, from Tucson, AZ, is majoring in Design and Architecture at New York University in New York, NY.

Patrick Kelly, from San Francisco, CA, and New Orleans, LA, is a law student at Harvard Law School in Cambridge, MA.

Andy Kirk, from Scott City, KS, is majoring in both English and Psychology at William Jewell College in Liberty, MO.

Brandon Kneefel, from Detroit, MI, and Dallas, TX, is majoring in Organizational Leadership at Pennsylvania State University in State College, PA.

Corey Koscielniak, from Webster Groves, MO, is majoring in International Studies at Macalester College in St. Paul, MN.

Zach Lundin, from Seattle, WA, is majoring in both Sociology and Education at Columbia University in New York, NY.

Jeff Manassero, from Sacramento, CA, is majoring in both History and Political Science at the University of California at Berkeley in Berkeley, CA.

Tony Meyer, from Mission Viejo, CA, is studying Political Science at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA.

Andrew Moe, from Janesville, WI, is an undergraduate student at Arizona State University and will pursue graduate study in Education in 2008.

Tina Owen, from Milwaukee, WI, is a graduate Administrative Leadership student at Alverno College in Milwaukee, WI.

Andrew Park, from Wheeling, IL, is a law student at Yale Law School in New Haven, CT.

Greg Payton, from Florissant, MO, is pursuing a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at the Teachers College of Columbia University in New York, NY.

Brandon Perkovich, from Naples, FL, is an undergraduate studying Biological Sciences at Harvard College at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA.

Philip Rogers-Reeves, from Thompson, ND, is an English major at the University of Buffalo in Buffalo, NY.

Joelle Ruby Ryan, from Newfields, NH, is a Ph.D. candidate in American Culture Studies at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, OH.

Michael Semensi, from Gloucester, MA, is majoring in History at Williams College in Williamstown, MA.

Zak Sinclair, from San Francisco, CA, originally from Houston, TX, is pursuing a graduate degree in Counseling Psychology at the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco, CA.

Kha Trinh, from Norcross, GA, and originally from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, is a History major at Notre Dame University in South Bend, IN.

Stanley Vance, from Houston, MS, is a medical student at Harvard Medical School in Boston, MA.

Stacy Weibley, from Newark, DE, is pursuing a Ph.D. in Public Health at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD.

Emily Williams, from Minneapolis, MN, is pursuing a Master of Science in Nursing at Yale University School of Nursing in New Haven, CT.

Point Foundation is the nation's largest publicly-supported organization granting scholarships to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students of merit. Point provides financial support, leadership training, mentoring and hope to LGBT individuals who are marginalized because of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

Prospective donors and potential applicants can learn more about Point Foundation and Point Scholars at www.pointfoundation.org.