



### **Kaplan Leadership Program Welcomes First Cohort**

*Kaplan Educational Foundation to help five young scholars overcome barriers in pursuit of education*

New York, May 9, 2006 – An African immigrant who works to support his family in Togo and a young mother who networked her way from a job at a coffee shop to an internship at an investment bank are two of the Kaplan Educational Foundation's first five Kaplan Leadership Scholars. The program is designed to help high-potential community college students complete their associate's degrees, transfer into and complete a bachelor's degree and eventually become leaders in their professions and communities.

"Many community college students have great promise, but face tremendous barriers," said Jonathan Grayer, Chairman and CEO of Kaplan, Inc. "There are remarkably few scholarship programs to meet the unique needs of these students. The Kaplan Educational Foundation has selected an exceptional group of scholars and will provide them with resources and support to remove obstacles and help them reach their full potential."

The Kaplan Leadership scholars are:

**Keisha Carrington**, a native of Barbados, plans to become a pediatric physician. She works at K-Mart and at a Queens after-school program to help finance her education. Keisha is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges, and the Honor Society of Black Student Scholars at the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC).

**Bolaji James**, an ophthalmic dispensary student and aspiring entrepreneur, plans to earn a master's degree in business administration and open a chain of optical stores. The native Nigerian is a student at New York City College of Technology and a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. He has also been selected to serve on the CUNY Black Male Initiative Taskforce, charged with developing strategies to alleviate the under representation of black men in higher education.

**Ebony McIntosh**, a business administration major at BMCC and aspiring C.P.A., would like to start a foundation for at-risk youth. During her freshman year, she networked her way into an internship at Lehman Brothers through one of her regular customers at Starbucks. This spring, the New York native returned to Lehman as an operations analyst intern. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and serves as a student government representative.

**Hamissou Samari**, a liberal arts major, managed to finish high school and start college in his native Togo despite losing his parents and working to support his siblings. He came to the U.S. two years ago knowing little English and enrolled in college. He plans to pursue a career in international law and would like to reduce crime by encouraging education among young people. Hamissou, a student at BMCC, is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and has been nominated for the National Dean's List.

**Martha Santos**, an early childhood education major from Ecuador, hopes to one day open a day care center that provides individualized learning programs for children, social services for families and educational opportunities for adults. She is active in student government, serves as a peer

mentor and recently launched BMCC's first Spanish-language magazine. She also works at Jumpstart, a non-profit early education organization, where she tutors low-income children.

The Kaplan Leadership Program, one of few that caters specifically to community college students, is designed to help outstanding young people surmount academic, social and financial barriers. The Foundation will provide scholarships to help the students pay their tuition and other educational expenses. The staff will guide the scholars through the transfer process into bachelor's degree programs and will provide assistance with job placement and/or graduate school applications as the scholars near graduation. In addition, the Foundation will match the scholars with mentors working in their fields of interest, host leadership development workshops, provide tutoring and present opportunities for scholars to take advantage of New York's cultural resources.

While all of the current scholars attend New York City community colleges, future cohorts will include students from other cities where Kaplan has a major presence.

To qualify for the program, students must be a member of a disadvantaged/underrepresented community, demonstrate financial need, be enrolled in an accredited associate's degree program and have at least a 3.25 G.P.A. The Foundation had a competitive pool of applicants and, following a rigorous selection process, chose an exceptional group of scholars.

**About the Kaplan Educational Foundation and Kaplan, Inc.**

The Kaplan Educational Foundation was founded by Kaplan, Inc., a global leader in education and career services. The Foundation provides high-potential, low-income students with academic and financial support, and leadership training to raise their expectations for success and open doors to opportunities that will change their lives and their communities. For more information about the Kaplan Educational Foundation, please visit [www.kaplanedfoundation.org](http://www.kaplanedfoundation.org).

Kaplan, based in New York, provides higher education, professional training, test preparation, K12 learning programs and publishing services. Kaplan, which had 2005 revenue of more than \$1.4 billion, is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Washington Post Company (NYSE: WPO). For more information about Kaplan, please visit [www.kaplan.com](http://www.kaplan.com).

**Press Contact:**

Michele Snipe  
Public Relations Manager  
Kaplan, Inc.  
(212) 492-5941  
[michele.snipe@kaplan.com](mailto:michele.snipe@kaplan.com)

