

The Jefferson Awards Youth Service Initiative  
Alexis I. DuPont High School Press Release



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**ALEXIS I. DUPONT HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES SAI GAJJALA, ESLAM AYOUB, KEVA BROOKS, SARANJOT KAUR, AND ILEANA MARTINEZ RECEIVES THE JEFFERSON AWARD**

Wilmington, Delaware, June 9, 2009

**Sai Gajjala** is being recognized as our January winner for her outstanding personal acts as an excellent role model for her peers. She has devoted herself to helping members in her community, here in the United States and abroad, by volunteering time at her high school, temple, and other volunteer programs. She donates her time after school three days a week to tutor students; she is an active member of the Key Club and a rigorous advertiser for their charitable programs, as well as a participant in the Festival of Trees at Delaware Hospice. She also works with young children at her Temple. In addition to her work in the United States, Sai also volunteered time while in India to repair a water well. Although Sai is still very young, she has already begun to leave her positive mark on this earth by assisting those around her who are in need.

**Eslam Ayoub** is being recognized as our February winner for his efforts in helping his fellow Muslims at Sunday school and also helping others. After graduating from the 15D Sunday school three years ago, Eslam has been helping to teach little kids for four hours every week. He helps with serving food and also plays football with the kids. He has been doing this consistently and with great joy. He is a great teacher and a wonderful role model.

**Keva Brooks** is being recognized as our March winner for her dedication and time after school to tutor students in the peer to peer mentoring/tutoring program. Keva has volunteered over one hundred hours of services assisting others in their academics. Not only has she helped others academically, but the program has helped her to mature personally. Reaching out to individuals outside of her normal social group makes Keva an example to those around her. She is an exemplar student who lends a helping hand to a diverse group of students.

**Saranjot Kaur** is being recognized as our April winner for her efforts in helping strangers in spite of her shy personality. Although Saranjot is both introverted and quiet, she has found a way to make a difference in her school community. She has dedicated over one hundred hours of peer to peer assistance in tutoring students after school. Sharon is an example for other students like her who may believe they are too quiet to help another or make an impact. She realized and demonstrated to others that the first step is to simply try.

**Ileana Martinez** is being recognized as our May winner for her dedication in taken her native language and making it an imperative part of the peer to peer mentoring/tutoring program at A.I. Three days a week, Ileana sits down and works with students who struggle with acquiring Spanish as a second language. Even through Ileana's own personal struggles, she has found a way to devote more than ninety hours to the after school peer mentoring/tutoring program. Ileana empowers students to continue their pursuit of learning Spanish as a second language. Ultimately, she is helping students to prepare for the world outside of the walls of Alexis I. DuPont High School.

**Sai, Eslam, Keva, Saranjot, and Ileana** are great role models for the students at Alexis I. DuPont High School.

#### **ABOUT THE JEFFERSON AWARDS**

**In 1972, the Jefferson Awards for Public Service were founded by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, U. S. Senator Robert Taft, Jr. and Sam Beard to create a Nobel Prize for public and community service. The Jefferson Awards are presented on two levels: national and local. National award recipients are a "Who's Who" of American history makers. Four Supreme Court Justices have been honored including Thurgood Marshall and Sandra Day O'Connor; seven Secretaries of State including Cyrus Vance and Colin Powell; three first ladies: Barbara Bush, Rosalyn Carter and Betty Ford; as well as Alan Greenspan, Bob Hope and Lance Armstrong, among over 100 others.**

**The Jefferson Awards Youth Service Initiative was created in partnership with Deloitte & Touche in order to encourage high school students to get involved in volunteering and community service. The goal is to double volunteering in America's high schools, build student leadership and encourage ethical decision making.**