FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
October 11, 2010

Contact:
Bill Walsh (651) 582-1145
Christine Dufour (651) 582-8720

Minnesota Kicks Off AP Week by Recognizing Two Advanced Placement Scholar Award Winners

Minnesota Continues to Expand AP Course Participation, Performance

Roseville – Two Minnesota students earned College Board State AP Scholar Awards based on their outstanding performance on the 2010 Advanced Placement Exams. Jieming Liu and Quian Long, both of Eden Prairie High School, are among 109 students nationwide to receive this honor. The announcement comes at the beginning of AP Week, an effort to recognize the students, teachers and AP programs making a difference in student achievement in Minnesota.

The College Board confers this distinction on the top male and female students in each U.S. state and the District of Columbia with scores of 3 or higher on the greatest number of AP exams, and the highest average score (at least 3.5) on all AP exams taken.

“I commend these students for their exemplary performance on Advanced Placement courses and their willingness to accept the challenge of rigorous college-level courses,” said Commissioner Alice Seagren. “It is my pleasure to celebrate the success of these students and all Minnesota students who are challenging themselves with rigorous coursework to prepare them for postsecondary success.”

Governor Tim Pawlenty proclaimed the week of October 11, 2010, as AP Week to highlight Minnesota’s Advanced Placement courses throughout the state. Advanced Placement courses are offered in high schools from Elk River to Zumbrota-Mazeppa and Como Park to Crookston.

Over 32,500 students from 291 schools took 53,239 AP exams in 2010 while 733 teachers attended summer AP training this year.

For five consecutive years, the number and performance of Minnesota students taking Advanced Placement (AP) tests has increased. This year, there was a 7.6 percent increase in the number of students taking AP exams, including a 20.3 percent increase in black students taking the AP exams.

At the same time, the number of students achieving high test results also increased. There was an 8 percent increase in the number of students scoring a three or higher on their exams, which is the cut score used by most colleges to award college credit to students.

“The College Board is honored to support the efforts of the state of Minnesota to prepare their students for the challenges of the 21st century by increasing access and preparedness for the Advanced Placement learning experience,” said Ileana Rodriguez, Vice President for the Midwest Region of the College Board. “AP Week is also a great opportunity to recognize and express our appreciation to the over 2000 AP teachers in Minnesota.”

“Minnesota has intentionally focused on increasing Advanced Placement student participation and performance,” said Education Commissioner Alice Seagren. “We need to continue to

increase participation, performance and our expectations of students so that Minnesota students remain competitive internationally."

Several officials from the College Board will be in Minnesota next week touring successful AP sites along with Commissioner Alice Seagren and Deputy Commissioner Karen Klinzing of the Minnesota Department of Education. The schedule for AP Week follows, all events are open to the press.

Tuesday October 12

Tour of successful Advanced Placement programs in Bemidji, MN

Karen Klinzing, Deputy Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Education
Jeff Peterson, Director of State Government Relations for the College Board

11:30 am to 12:30 pm

Bemidji High School
2900 Division Street W.
Bemidji, MN 56601

Contact: Principal

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Trek North High School
2518 Hannah Avenue NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

Wednesday October 13

Tour of successful Advanced Placement programs in Minneapolis and St. Paul

Alice Seagren, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Education
Jeff Peterson, College Board Director of State Government Relations
Tricia Renner, College Board Senior Director Government Relations, Midwest Region
Ted Gardella, College Board Senior Director K-12 Services

8:00 am to 9:30 pm

South High School
3131 19th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55407

10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Como Park Senior High School
740 West Rose Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55117

Thursday, October 14

Minnesota Advanced Placement Celebration

Karen Klinzing, Deputy Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Education
Trevor Packer, College Board Vice President

6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Macalester College

Alexander G. Hill Ballroom, Kagin Commons
1600 Grand Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105

###