**[](http://www.houstonisd.org/HISDmedia)HISD students to be recognized**

**at annual Scholars Banquet**

HISD will honor today 44 valedictorians and 42 salutatorians at its annual Scholars Banquet. The event will take place at the Royal Sonesta Hotel (2222 W. Loop S. Fwy) and begins at 7 p.m. This year’s prestigious group of high achieving students includes two Millennium Gates Scholars, **Karen Banda** of Furr High School, and **Tuyet Nhi Nguyen Tran** of East Early College High School. Both are their school’s valedictorians and are two of 1,000 Millennium Gates Scholars in the nation.

Karen Banda has been active in GeoFORCE, the EMERGE program, and her school’s civility program. Banda is also a member of the choir, the Principal’s Advisory Committee, and the Principal’s Court. A product of HISD, she attended Whittier Elementary and Holland Middle schools. Banda plans to pursue a degree in economics from Smith College, but she has also been offered more than $660,000 in scholarships from Clark University, St. Lawrence University, and Austin College.

“We are incredibly proud of the class of 2014 valedictorians and salutatorians,” said Chief School Support Office Andrew Houlihan, Ed.D. “Their success is hard earned, their determination is admirable, and their future is very bright.”

Millennium Gates Scholar Tuyet Nhi Nguyen Tran attended Park Place Elementary and Stevenson Middle schools before attending East Early College High School. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Phi Theta Kappa, the Student Council, and the Technology Student Association. She has also been active in debate activities through the National Forensics League and the Houston Urban Debate League. She plans to pursue a degree in medical laboratory sciences at the University of Texas using the Presidential Achievement and President’s Gold Scholarships she has received.

We’re noting and profiling each school’s valedictorian and salutatorian in daily postings to our [HISD Facebook page.](https://mail.houstonisd.org/owa/redir.aspx?C=BeoTgErgik2wl0e20YPGrTDaRnKOTNFInTwoDGh0BSLj-oDuwb05GttD5rCttcilpeXXQwzj7d8.&URL=https%3a%2f%2fwww.facebook.com%2f%23!%2fHoustonISD)

**Who:** HISD Valedictorians, Salutatorians, family and friends  
  
**What:** Annual Scholars Banquet  
 **When:** Wednesday, April 30, 7 p.m.  
 **Where:** Royal Sonesta Hotel, 2222 W. Loop S. Fwy

**Where:** Region 4 Education Service Center - McKinney Conference Center, 7200 Northwest 100 Drive

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