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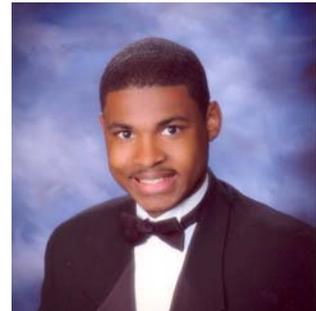
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FOR IMMEDIATE

## ***NCSA Awards 2010 Cornett Memorial Scholarship to Michael McAllister***

**May 3, 2010—Bethesda, MD**—The National Cued Speech Association (NCSA) announces the award of the R. Orin Cornett Memorial Scholarship to Michael McAllister (North Carolina). The R. Orin Cornett Scholarship Fund, which supports qualified individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing in their post-secondary endeavors, makes this award possible.

“Providing scholarships to deaf cuers was part of Dr. Cornett's vision. We are proud to award this scholarship in his name to a cuer like Michael who is such a clear example of how Cued Speech helps deaf students reach their potential. We wish Michael the best of luck in realizing his dreams,” said NCSA Interim President Cathy Quenin.



This scholarship honors Dr. Cornett's memory and lifelong dedication to Cued Speech, as well as his personal interest in the academic successes of cuers around the nation. Dr. Cornett developed Cued Speech in 1965-66, during his first year as Vice President of Long-Range Planning at Gallaudet University. His goal was to develop a way for deaf children to access clearly and visually the properties of spoken language.

Research has shown that individuals who cue typically reach their maximum literacy potential and often perform at or above grade level in language testing. Most cuers pursue post-secondary education and the NCSA supports them in achieving their goals.

*The recipient of the award must have used Cued Speech as his or her primary mode of communication during their crucial language learning years or for five or more years of their education. He or she must be entering or attending an undergraduate, graduate, or vocational institute for the upcoming school year. The scholarship is not based on academic achievement, need or degree of hearing loss. Rather, scholarship recipients qualify by writing an essay that reflects the mission, vision and goals of the NCSA, which include championing effective communication, language development and literacy through the use of Cued Speech.*

### **About Michael McAllister**

Michael is a resident of North Carolina and currently lives in Charlotte. He was introduced to Cued Speech at the age three. After being diagnosed with a profound, bi-lateral hearing loss at 13

months Michael's parents enrolled him in an auditory verbal program. However, after marveling at the success of students using Cued Speech, his parents entered him in a Cued Speech program. At this point, he began to absorb language like a sponge.

In his scholarship essay, Michael said,

“Cued Speech was essential to my adapting in social, educational and spiritual environments and, after 19 years, Cued Speech is still a part of my daily routine. I was two years old when my parents and I first attended Cue Camp Cheerio in Roaring Gap, North Carolina. This was a “turning point” experience for my parents and for me. Through the Cue Camp experience, I became part of a network of families who supported each other in their decision use Cued Speech.”

Irene Ingersoll, disability coordinator at High Point University, who has worked with Michael for the last 3 years, sees Michael reaching his goals based on his academic achievements.

“In 5 years I see Michael as a very successful adult in the work force. I have no doubt that he will be working for a company designing games for children and adults. I have had the opportunity to sit in classes with him and watch his enthusiasm and contributions in class. He often asks questions, works on team projects and gives presentations. He is extremely responsible, polite and dedicated. His Cued Speech and communication skills have advanced such that he is no different than any other student in the class, and often more responsible than some of his peers. Michael spends many hours in the library, or communication lab working on papers or projects. He is very committed to his studies.

Michael attends High Point University, pursuing a degree in Communications [Game design and development].

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*The National Cued Speech Association champions effective communication, language development and literacy through the use of Cued Speech. The NCSA launched the Deaf Children's Literacy Project in 1997. For more information contact [ExDir@cuedspeech.org](mailto:ExDir@cuedspeech.org) or visit [www.cuedspeech.org](http://www.cuedspeech.org).*