



KIPP: DELTA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

For Immediate Release

**INAUGURAL CLASS OF KIPP DELTA COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL
SENIORS EARN ACCEPTANCES TO COLLEGE**

100% percent of KIPP Delta Collegiate's first graduating class will attend college

Helena-West Helena, AR – May 20, 2010 – KIPP Delta Collegiate High School, part of a network of KIPP charter schools in the Arkansas Delta, is proud to announce the high school graduation of its founding class of students. 100% percent of KIPP Delta Collegiate's first class to complete high school is headed to college. KIPP Delta Collegiate's first class of seniors will graduate on **Thursday, May 20, at 7:00 p.m., at Phillips Community College** in Helena-West Helena, AR. Governor Mike Beebe will deliver the commencement address, with Mike Feinberg, co-founder of the national Knowledge Is Power Program (KIPP), and U.S. District Judge Brian Miller also giving remarks.

"I am so proud of our first graduating seniors, who have worked incredibly hard to reach this important milestone in their education," said KIPP Delta's Executive Director Scott Shirey. "KIPP Delta is proving that high expectations from caring, committed teachers and a strong partnership between schools and families can lead to outstanding academic results for our students."

Most of these graduating seniors are the first in their families to go to college. Students have gained acceptance to more than 32 colleges, including University of Notre Dame, Hendrix College, Arkansas State University, Clark Atlanta University, University of Arkansas – Pine Bluff, Spelman College, Vanderbilt University, and the U.S. Naval Academy.

KIPP Delta Collegiate High School joins seven other KIPP communities who will be sending their first graduating class to college. **This marks a historic time for KIPP – this is the largest group of high school graduates KIPP has ever had, fulfilling its promise to help students climb the mountain to and through college.** The other communities include Austin, TX; Baltimore, MD; Denver, CO; Memphis, TN; Newark, NJ; Oakland, CA; and Oklahoma City, OK. Nationally, more than 80 percent of the students who have completed 8th grade at KIPP schools have matriculated to college.

Two KIPP Delta Collegiate seniors, Domonique Bragg and Abba Colbert, illustrate the impact of a KIPP Delta education. Domonique and Abba started at KIPP Delta College Preparatory School in fifth and sixth grades, respectively, and continued on as 9th graders at KIPP Delta Collegiate High School.

Domonique Bragg, a native of Helena, longed to attend Vanderbilt University since her freshman year at KIPP Delta Collegiate. In the summer of 2009, Domonique was able to attend a summer program at Vanderbilt and was further convinced that the school was a great fit for her. Four years later, Domonique never lost sight of her goals and will be enrolling at Vanderbilt this fall. Domonique plans to study biology and eventually attend dental school.

"KIPP Delta taught me the importance of discipline and hard work in order to achieve my goals," said Domonique Bragg. "My experience at KIPP has prepared me to succeed in college and in life."



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Abba Colbert, a native of West Helena, looks forward to attending Hendrix College in Conway, AR. She plans on becoming a psychologist and bringing her expertise to low-income communities to positively impact the lives of young children and teens. Abba recently won Hendrix College Provost's Scholarship, which covers the cost of full tuition for four years. In addition, she has earned the Odyssey Honors and Distinction Award to support her college endeavors.

"My experience at KIPP Delta introduced me to both rigorous academics and enriching activities such as sports and music," said Abba. "I was able to excel in my classes while also participating in extra-curricular activities. KIPP gave me the motivation and encouragement I needed to really get excited about going to college."

KIPP Delta Collegiate High School is one of three schools in the KIPP Delta network. KIPP Delta Collegiate was founded in 2006 and serves an estimated 150 students in grades nine through twelve. 95 percent of KIPP Delta Collegiate students are African-American and 90 percent qualify for free or reduced price meals. KIPP Delta takes a rigorous, "no excuses" approach to education with a college-preparatory curriculum.

"I congratulate Domonique Bragg, Abba Colbert, and the rest of KIPP Delta Collegiate High School's Class of 2010," said Richard Barth, CEO of the KIPP Foundation. "KIPP Delta continues to set a track record of success, achieve excellent results and redefine what is possible in public education, both in the Arkansas Delta and for cities nationwide."

About KIPP Delta Public Schools

KIPP Delta Public Schools are tuition-free, open-enrollment, public charter schools that accept all students on a space-available basis. Ninety-five percent of KIPP Delta's students are African-American, and more than 85 percent qualify for the federal free and reduced-price school lunch program. Our mission is to empower students from high-poverty communities to develop the knowledge, skills, and character traits necessary to pursue a college education and a life of value, joy, and integrity. For more information, visit www.kippdelta.org.

About KIPP

KIPP has grown from two original schools founded by Teach For America alumni Mike Feinberg and Dave Levin to a national network of 82 free, open-enrollment, college-preparatory public charter schools. Over 80 percent of KIPP students are low-income, and 90 percent are African-American or Latino/Hispanic. KIPP has been widely recognized for putting underserved students on the path to college. For more information, visit www.kipp.org.

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