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## PROTON ENERGY SYSTEMS ANNOUNCES \$1 MILLION SCHOLARSHIP FINALISTS

*10 high school seniors, future leaders in science and technology, now vie for top prize to be awarded at Hydrogen Conference*

**Wallingford, Conn. (April 26, 2010)** – Global hydrogen leader [Proton Energy Systems](#) is about to make higher education dreams a reality for some high school seniors. Today the company announced the finalists for the [Proton Energy Scholarship](#), a \$1 million scholarship program supported and funded by Tom Sullivan, Proton's chairman, and administered by the [Hydrogen Education Foundation](#) (HEF). The 10 finalists will now vie for the top prize, to be announced at the [NHA Hydrogen Conference and Expo](#) on May 4.

The Proton Energy Scholarship recognizes and awards high school seniors who demonstrate outstanding achievement, excellence and promise in the fields of science or technology, and who plan to pursue higher education in these areas. The scholarship program will award four-year undergraduate scholarship prizes with a total value of up to \$100,000 each, and honorable mentions will be awarded \$500 each. Sullivan has committed \$1 million to the HEF.

The Proton Energy Scholarship finalists were evaluated on academic performance, strength of application, commitment to further education in a science or technology related field, financial need and demonstrated leadership, work ethic and community involvement. Learn more here about each student's broad accomplishments:

- **Sahil Khetpal, Plano, TX:** Besides being a top finisher in 10 science and math competitions, Sahil is an accomplished saxophone player and has worked with *Invisible Children* to raise money and awareness of the tragedies occurring in Northern Uganda.
- **Ryan Gao, Falmouth, ME:** Ryan coaches two middle school math teams, is a peer math tutor, a member of the cross country and track teams, sings in two a cappella groups and multiple choir groups, and has been a top finisher in several math and science competitions.
- **Matthew Lee, Pacolet, SC:** Along with being a top finisher in the Physics and Chemistry Olympiads, Matthew has spent a summer volunteering at a local soup kitchen and a nursing home.
- **Andres Parrado, Stamford, CT:** Andres moved to the U.S. from Colombia almost two years ago speaking very little English and is now an active member of the Temple Beth El Junior Choir, Westhill Northstar Drama Club, Westhill Math Team, the National Honor Society and has played bass in two bands.
- **Carolyn Bai, Old Saybrook, CT:** Carolyn, a cross country runner, has spent the past three summers as a docent at her local historical society and has since begun interning at a conservancy. She is also a member of the National Honor Society and Thespian Society.
- **Jesse Castaneda, Morro Bay, CA:** Jesse is a member of the National Honor Society and the recipient of six Golden Tiger Awards, which is given for excellence in a particular subject once a year. He is also a varsity cross country runner and the club president of SkillsUSA, a national organization promoting career and technical training and preparation.
- **William McNeary IV, Charleston, MO:** A dedicated member of the marching and jazz bands, William is also a member of the Student Council, Environmental Key Club and

Future Teachers of America. William also organized a collection of blankets for Hearts for Africa, an organization that gives supplies to orphaned, homeless children in Africa.

- **Philip Lubik, Harwinton, CT:** Philip belongs to six school clubs and holds offices in two of them, has been a member of the high school math team since the seventh grade and plays varsity volleyball and soccer. His soccer team went undefeated last year and competed in the state semi-finals this year.
- **Alexandra Olivares, Dubuque, IA:** A future aerospace engineer, Alexandra, who is in the top 3 percent of her class, was chosen to attend a NASA summer scholarship program which fueled her desire to study science, technology, engineering and math. She tackles her studies while juggling part-time jobs which include going undercover for the local police department to catch establishments that illegally sell alcohol and cigarettes to minors.
- **Jenny Lu, Southbury, CT:** On top of being an award-winning classical pianist, Jenny has traveled to Budapest as part of the International Chemistry Olympiad where she received the bronze and became only the second U.S. sophomore to win a medal in the 24-year history of the United States' participation.

For more information about Proton Energy Systems and the Proton Energy Scholarship, please visit [www.protonenergy.com](http://www.protonenergy.com) or [www.protonenergyscholarship.com](http://www.protonenergyscholarship.com).

### **About Proton Energy Systems**

Proton Energy Systems designs and manufactures proton exchange membrane (PEM) electrochemical systems to make hydrogen from water in a zero pollution process producing safe, pure, reliable onsite hydrogen to meet today's global hydrogen requirements. Proton Energy Systems has been developing and manufacturing world-class electrolysis systems since 1996, with thousands of units deployed world-wide, on every continent. With a reputation for building robust, reliable, and safe systems, federal, state, and commercial partners repeatedly seek the creative solutions that Proton Energy Systems has proven it is capable of delivering. For more information, visit [www.ProtonEnergy.com](http://www.ProtonEnergy.com).

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