

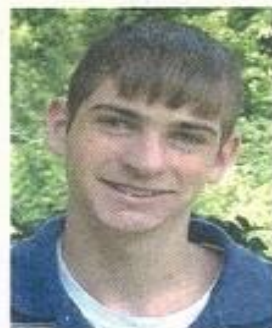
Central Students Win Language Scholarships



Jaymes-Irish Jester



James Lancon



Brian O'Neill



Chancie Sibley



Lucas Spicer



Charles Voisin



Everett Walker

CITY OF CENTRAL — The Institute of Critical Languages and Cultural Exchange along with the STAR-TALK grant have awarded their 2008 scholarships.

Of the 25 high school and college students selected from around the United States and abroad, seven are from the City of Central!

These prestigious scholarships are awarded once a year, and the recipients earn two semesters of high school and college foreign language classes.

The comprehensive, immersion program will be conducted at LSU by professors and scholars from around the world. Students selected to participate in this culturally-rich program focused on Middle Eastern Studies, are from California, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Haiti, and Guyana.

"It is a rigorous curriculum designed to dramatically increase the number of Americans learning critical foreign languages such as Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Hindi, Farsi, and others," Professor Najoua Hotard said.

"Americans must be able to communicate in other languages, a challenge for which most citizens are totally unprepared," he said.

The seven students from Central who received this prominent scholarship are Jaymes-Irish Jester, James Lancon, Brian O'Neill,

Chancie Sibley, Luke Spicer, Charles Voisin, and Everett Walker.

Jaymes-Irish "JI" Jester plans to major in religious studies with special focus on global studies of languages and literature.

Brian O'Neill plans to major in political science with a special focus on federal government.

Charles "Charlie" Voisin plans to attend LSU majoring in linguistics with a special focus on humanities.

Everett "Rhett" Walker attends Baton Rouge Community College majoring in criminal justice with special focus on counterintelligence.

"Central students are excellent," Hotard said when asked why Central High School students and graduates make up such a large portion of the scholarship awarded.

"They have an interest in the progress of the world and the maturity to realize how important it is to learn the critical languages for

our future," he said.

Another reason he cited was that "Central High School has a valuable asset for their children in Ms. Maureen Lobrano. She was proactive in helping the students file their scholarship applications and getting the necessary recommendations and documents." Hotard added, "Not only are Central

students a targeted group of bright young people for vital, future leadership roles, they also have the support of many to make it possible for them to achieve."

Ms. Lobrano is a highly regarded counselor at Central High School.

The grant is administered by the

National Foreign Language Center at the University of Maryland. Educational materials are awarded by the Arab Academy in Cairo, Egypt, the Saudi ARAMCO Company, and the Smithsonian National Gallery.

For information, visit www.iclce.org.

Najoua Hotard PhD:

I.C.L.C.E Outreach Examples



High School Residential Arabic Language Programs

