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For Immediate Release

Pringle Scholarship awarded to GSU student

University Park, October 6, 2003—Governors State University Board of Governors student Elizabeth Green has been selected as the 2003 recipient of the prestigious Robert A. Pringle Memorial Scholarship award.

"Elizabeth is an impressive student," said Dr. Diane Balin, director of Governors State's Board of Governors B.A. degree program. "Her academic work is superior, and she has been tremendously active doing good things for the students at Governors State University."

Green serves as President of the university's Black Student Union and Treasurer of the Student Senate. She is also on the Student Fees and Finance Committee and has traveled to Washington D.C. as a student representative for Governors State at the 2003 Leadership Seminar of the Illinois Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel.

"Elizabeth is exactly the sort of woman we want representing not only our university, but our Board of Governors degree program," Balin said. "We're very proud of her accomplishments. Her selection for the Pringle Scholarship was unanimous."

The Board of Governors degree program was created for students like Green—adults with work and life experience directly equal, in many cases, to college level work.

The program translates that experience into college credit. The Board of Governors student then completes his or her remaining degree requirements within the program, often tailoring undergraduate studies in preparation for graduate work.

For Green, that graduate work will be in pursuit of her MBA.

"Doing well in life, getting ahead—these things all come back to a single foundation: customer service," Green said. "That's what business should be about. The golden rule definitely applies."

The "golden rule" shines through in Green's work at the university. She helped organize the university's Martin Luther King Jr celebration earlier this year, a successful event that brought a diverse student body together in remembrance and mutual respect.

"I want to improve the world," she said. "You treat people with respect, and you treat them fairly, and they can accomplish great things. They can have a better future. I want to help people succeed, and I want to succeed in the process."

Green walks the walk. She has consistently earned her place on the university's dean's list, yet she has volunteered her time to encourage other students to stay in college.

Working with the university's retention committee, Green recently phoned several of the university's new students and asked how the university could help them make the transition into upper-division studies.

"Whenever a new student indicated a problem, Elizabeth brought it to our attention," said Larry Polselli, the university's executive director of Student Admissions and Recruitment. "And we were able to solve the problem."

"Customer service," Green repeated. "It can keep a student in school, and it can lead to a better future."

The Robert A. Pringle Memorial Scholarship is administered through an endowment by the Pringle family. Robert Pringle, in whose name the scholarship is awarded, helped create the Board of Governors program in Illinois thirty years ago. "Dr. Pringle knew that adults need to have a different avenue to education than is typically offered by universities," Balin said. "Most colleges are designed to take in students who've just graduated from high school. But a lot of adult students have years of working life and real experience under their belts. They have different needs. The Board of Governors was created to address that."

Green's own career path took her through work in real estate and the railroad, often in a technical capacity. Awarded in part for financial need, the Pringle Scholarship has helped 14 students complete their baccalaureate education over the past eight years.

"Elizabeth is going to do great things," Balin said. "The Pringle Scholarship will help her along the way, and she is a prime example of the type of person that Dr. Pringle had in

mind in creating this degree."

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