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## **Reliant Awards Student Athletes with “Scholarship for Champions”**

*—Over \$325,000 Merit-Based Awards Given Since Program’s Inception—*

**HOUSTON – December 1, 2014** – The life of a student athlete is busy; packed with classes, practices and games. But for nine Houston-area students, finding time to juggle their athletic and academic responsibilities while serving as community leaders earned them a \$5,000 scholarship through Reliant’s ninth annual [Scholarship for Champions](#) program.

Created from a partnership between Reliant and the Houston Texans, the Scholarship for Champions award celebrates each athlete’s academic performance, values and dedication to his or her community and sports team. All of the winners play on varsity teams while maintaining a minimum 3.0 grade point average and plan to pursue a college degree.

“These student athletes are simply amazing. Their stories are inspiring and demonstrate how courage, hard work and perseverance have laid the foundation for them to become leaders and make a difference in their communities,” said Elizabeth Killinger, president of NRG Retail and Reliant. “These scholarship winners represent the next generation of leaders. It’s truly a privilege and an honor to recognize them and give back to the various communities Reliant serves.”

A judging panel with representatives from Reliant selected the winners, who were surprised at their schools and recognized during a special on-field ceremony at the Texans game on Nov. 24th.

“These Scholarship for Champions winners set a great example for others to follow, both on and off the field. This program allows us to both honor their achievement and help them further their educational goals,” said Houston Texans President Jamey Rootes. “Our partnership with Reliant to recognize these student athletes is a celebration of the talent, tenacity and strength that each of them has demonstrated, and we look forward to seeing them realize their full potential as leaders.”

The winning students are:

- **Chirac Hitimana of Davis High School** – Chirac plays on his high school varsity soccer team. He has faced many challenges in his life but has remained determined to move forward. Whether on or off the field, Chirac is a great team player, partnering with his teammates – to develop their skills, score goals or cheer them on from the side lines.
- **Jaron Dillard of North Forest High School** – Jaron plays varsity football. He is a leader on his school's campus and excels both in the classroom and on the field. He consistently demonstrates his maturity and intelligence in his daily dealings with his teammates, classmates and teachers. Additionally, Jaron is active in his community and church.
- **Emily Burns of Waller High School** – Emily is the catcher on her softball team. According to her coach, "Emily is a young lady who never quits, and she is truly an admired young lady with so much heart, dedication, fire and fight to achieve her goals." Additionally, Emily started working at the age of 16 to pay for select ball so she could continue improving her skills outside of her school sport.
- **Tyler Twardowski of Waller High School** – Tyler has played football and baseball throughout his life. During his senior year of high school, he experienced several debilitating injuries that he has learned to accept through courage and faith. Tyler now wants to become a physical therapist so he can help others navigate through experiences similar to his.
- **Joshua Cooper of Summer Creek High School** – Joshua is the varsity track and field captain at his school. His strength and confidence have been a beacon of light for the rest of his teammates. He is constantly giving them positive advice and encouragement to do their best, not only in the realm of athletics, but also in their academics.
- **Victoria Meza of Clear Creek High School** – By participating in her school's wrestling program, Victoria has made a dramatic transformation in her health. Not only is she the wrestling captain at her school, she is a band section leader, Girl Scout, and honor student.
- **Keith Woodruff of Stratford High School** – Keith plays on the varsity golf team. At age eleven, Keith became legally blind and deaf. In spite of his disabilities, Keith has succeeded in overcoming any obstacles thrown his way.
- **Sarah Redding of Friendswood High School** – Sarah is captain of her school's varsity volleyball team and can always be counted on to put her team first. She is also involved in other activities for church and is a volunteer at a youth camp.

Since its inception in 2005, the "Scholarship for Champions" program has awarded more than \$325,000 to 65 students from the Houston area. For more information about the program, visit <http://scholarship.myreliantenergy.com/>

#### **About Reliant, an NRG company**

Reliant provides electricity, smart energy solutions, and energy services to business and residential customers across Texas. Reliant is part of NRG Energy, Inc. (NYSE: NRG), a

Fortune 250 company that is at the forefront of changing how people think about, buy and use energy. Backed by a diverse portfolio of about 100 power generating facilities that can support over 46 million homes nationwide, NRG's retail businesses serve almost 3 million customers in 10 states and the District of Columbia, and including Reliant, would collectively comprise Texas' largest retail energy provider. For more information about Reliant products and services, please visit [www.reliant.com](http://www.reliant.com). Connect with Reliant on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/reliantenergy](http://www.facebook.com/reliantenergy) and on Twitter @reliantenergy. PUCT Certificate #10007

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