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For Immediate Release

**CoSA Student Michael Silberblatt Selected to Join Elite Group
of US Presidential Scholars for 2010 Student Leaders Exchange trip to China**

Top Honor includes visit to Whitehouse and travel to China

Coronado, CA, June 30, 2010 – Coronado High School and Coronado School of the Arts Senior Michael Silberblatt has earned many honors throughout his high school career. But Michael's most unique achievement will take him to Washington D.C. and then to China this summer. As a Presidential Scholar in the Arts, Michael joins a group of only 12 high school seniors selected from a diverse and talented field of hundreds nationwide who have earned the privilege of traveling to the White House and then to China for two weeks of cultural exchange and learning. He is the only arts scholar and only student in California to earn this top national honor in 2010.

Though Michael excels at math and science (he earned a near perfect score on the SAT II in math level 2 and a perfect score on the SAT II in math level 1 which he took just for fun), it is his love of acting that set the stage for this journey. Each year, all of the Musical Theatre students at Coronado School of the Arts (CoSA) submit videotaped entries for the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA) YoungArts award.

YoungArts is the core program of the NFAA. The organization's mission is to identify emerging artists, provide educational enrichment and assistance in their pursuit of the arts and to raise the appreciation for and support of the arts in American Society. YoungArts grants up to \$500,000 in monetary awards and makes available \$3 million in scholarship opportunities to America's most outstanding high school senior age artists.

Michael entered the competition in the Spoken Theatre category, and his video featured a dramatic monologue from William Shakespeare's "Titus Andronicus" and a comedic monologue from "Class Action." Out of 8,000 applicants who enter this competition, only 149 move on to the finals. Michael did just that, and he earned one of only fifty slots as a Silver YoungArts Award winner and participated in a New York City arts week that combined master classes, exhibitions, and enrichment activities. Michael was chosen by his NFAA peers to be the 2010 YoungArts Class Representative. Then, after completing a rigorous application, only 20 students nationwide become Presidential Scholars in the Arts, and only one of those students goes on to China.

Michael visited Washington D.C. in late June, dined at the White House, and met President Obama. He is now in China spending time with a host family, touring the Great Wall of China and other remarkable landmarks, and participating in many cultural exchange activities (he may come back able to speak and write a bit of Chinese). It is an amazing honor and opportunity for an amazing young man.

Michael remains humble about his accumulating accolades (he has also won awards in the Old Globe Honors Awards program, National Youth Theatre and the DramaFest at Grossmont College). He has been accepted to Northwestern University where he will begin as a Freshman in the Fall and tackle a dual major of theatre and mathematics.