



### **\*\* Two SICS Seniors Awarded Full Scholarships to Smith College\*\***

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Contact Name: Ms. Amy Wesley

E-mail: [awesley@sabis.net](mailto:awesley@sabis.net)

#### **For Immediate Release**

Two students from **SABIS® International Charter School (SICS)**, a SABIS® Network U.S. charter school, have received full scholarships (\$188,000 for each student over four years) to Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. Sarah Brown and Gabrielle Solano, seniors at SICS, earned two out of four “Springfield/Holyoke Partnership” scholarships awarded by the college.

Smith College, a Massachusetts-based, private, independent, women’s liberal arts college that counts Nancy Reagan, Barbara Bush, and Sylvia Plath among its alumni, awards the “Springfield/Holyoke Partnership” scholarship to students from public schools in Springfield and Holyoke, Massachusetts. Scholarship recipients are chosen based on three main criteria: a record of top academic performance, a history of service to others, and a commitment to excellence. Both Gabrielle and Sarah excelled in meeting all three criteria.



SICS seniors Gabrielle Solano (l) and Sarah Brown

Sarah joined SICS in Kindergarten in 2002; Gabrielle joined the school as a 4<sup>th</sup> grader in 2007. Both girls have performed at high levels academically throughout their time at SICS. They have both been enrolled in a full array of Advanced Placement (AP®) courses and each has earned a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 4.3 out of 4.0, the highest academic average recognized and recorded at SICS. They have also been actively engaged members of the SICS community, participating in the SABIS Student Life Organization®, the school’s competitive interscholastic athletic programs, and National Honor Society.

Gabrielle and Sarah are honored to have been selected as scholarship recipients. Sarah has chosen to attend the University of Massachusetts, where she has also received an excellent financial package, and Gabrielle will attend Smith College. *“I am looking forward to enrolling at Smith,” she said. “I have always loved to write and I look forward to joining such a creative community.”*

Reaction to the news at SICS has been overwhelmingly positive. Mrs. Ellen McDonald, President of the school’s Board of Trustees, said, *“Our heartfelt congratulations go to Ms. Brown and Ms. Solano on this extraordinary achievement. They truly embody the potential of all the students in the city of Springfield and demonstrate the commitment to education the educators at the SABIS® International Charter School display on a daily basis. Ms. Brown and Ms. Solano should be an inspiration to all.”* Mr. Tom Campagna, SICS Guidance Counselor, remarked, *“Sarah and Gabby clearly represent the best that SICS has to offer,”* he said. *“Each has challenged themselves academically and not backed away from making time to better our community.”*

SICS has a long track record of successfully preparing students to gain admission to college. In fact, 100% of the school’s graduates to date have earned college acceptances. For more information about SICS, visit [sics.sabis.net](http://sics.sabis.net).

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