

Brennan Brown

2008 NAGC-TAG Nicholas Green Distinguished Student
<http://www.tag-tenn.org>

Acceptance Remarks

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Hello. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Brennan Brown. I am so grateful to be recognized for this prestigious award. It is a true honor for me. I haven't ever really thought of myself as gifted, just driven, and now I'm standing here accepting this prominent award.

In third grade I was tested to be in the APEX classroom, where I met Mrs. Larson, my APEX leader. She has always been there for me as a positive influence, which helped me to graduate elementary school with a perfect 4.0 grade point average. When I was in the third grade Mrs. Larson organized a booth at a school carnival to increase awareness about malaria. I assisted her in raising money for bed nets by selling handcrafted cards, jewelry, and sun catchers.

What are bed nets you ask? Well, bed nets are nets with special pesticides that prevent mosquitoes and other insects from infecting individuals while they sleep. Bed nets fit 4-6 people under them. We raised \$160, which bought 16 bed nets. Bill Gates and his wife sponsor the foundation. They take any amount donated and double it. So our total after that action was \$320, enough to purchase 32 bed nets and provide protection to almost 200 people.

I am also a supporter of a website known as freerice.com (<http://www.freerice.com>). Free Rice is a sister site of the world poverty site, poverty.com (<http://www.poverty.com>). Free Rice has two goals: to provide free education to everyone and to help end world hunger by providing rice to hungry people for free. The total grains of rice collected since this website started on October 7, 2007 is a little over forty-three billion grains of rice as of last Tuesday [September 16, 2008]. I have contributed more than 20,000 of this total by logging on to the website and answering vocabulary questions. A right answer raises 20 grains of rice.

Free rice goes along with me wanting to help fix world problems. I hope to graduate Vanderbilt University and become a pediatrician. It is my dream to have a chance to help children. I would love the chance to travel around the world as a doctor to help heal illnesses in other countries.

Recently I have helped a little girl in the United States by donating 12" of my hair to a charity known as Locks of Love. It is when you donate your hair to be sewn into a wig for cancer patients to have as their own hair without having to worry about the texture of usual wigs.

Modeling and dancing are my hobbies that I enjoy. I have been modeling since 5 years of age. Taking competitive dance classes three times a week is how I keep active. Tap, jazz, ballet, and hip-hop teach me determination by having to practice and memorize four dance routines. I'm very involved at my school. I participate in choir, beta club, and student council. Last year I was the president of beta club, and secretary of student council. Since this past year I have played soccer for the past six years with my dad coaching me all but one season.

My family is very important to me. My parents have directed me down a great path telling me the whole way that I'm going to be somebody, someday. They've given me love and encouragement, which has helped me grow up as a fine person.

Once again I want to thank you. This is a great honor and achievement for me to receive the Nicholas Green Distinguished Student award. A personal motto that I live by at all times is "Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity, show yourself as an example to those who believe." It is in that spirit that I will strive to represent the National Association for Gifted Children and the Tennessee Association for the Gifted by constantly driving towards academic excellence and encouraging others to do the same. Thank you for your time.