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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Hannah Mills, a graduate student in TWU’s College of Professional Education, to be honored with Virginia Chandler Dykes Scholarship**

*Four Scholarship Awards to be presented at 10th Annual TWU Virginia Chandler Dykes Leadership Award Luncheon honoring Myrna D. Schlegel and Kimberly Whitman Schlegel, for their leadership and support of charitable and nonprofit organizations*

**Dallas, TX – December x, 2011** – Hannah Mills, a Carrollton resident and graduate student in TWU’s College of Professional Education, will receive one of four prestigious scholarships given by Texas Woman’s University at the 10th Annual Virginia Chandler Dykes Leadership Award Luncheon, presented by Bank of Texas, Texas Woman’s University, and the Texas Woman’s University Foundation, Feb. 16, 2012, at noon, The Belo Mansion and Pavilion. Mills’ scholarship is sponsored by Geraldine “Tincy” Miller.

Mills recently finished her Master’s of Science Degree in Child Development with a 4.0 GPA. In January of 2012 she will begin her pursuit of her Ph.D. studies in Early Child Development and Education with the goal of becoming a professor.

Originally from Sheridan, Wyoming, Mills began her undergraduate studies at California State University in San Bernardino and transferred to the University of Texas at Dallas where she graduated with a Bachelor’s of Arts Degree in Psychology in 2009 and earned Magna Cum Laude and Major Honors after writing an honors thesis regarding the impact of divorce in relation to its affect on the overall development in children. She also served as an intern for a forensic psychologist during her undergraduate studies. Mills began her master’s level coursework at TWU in the summer of 2010. At TWU, she serves as a graduate teaching assistant and a research assistant, with research experience including *An Exploration of the Emotional Hardiness and Family Climate Among Young Children in Military Families*.

“My experiences at TWU as a graduate teaching assistant have fueled my aspirations to become a professor,” said Mills. “My life-long interest in pursuing knowledge, the dedication of the faculty members, and the encouragement of my family, have all challenged and inspired me to work hard and never settle for anything less than my best.”

In addition to her studies, Mills is an aspiring author, currently working on, *Let's Break for Play: The Significance of Integrating Play Within Classroom Environments*, and *Ava the Ant – a Children's Book*. Her wide variety of interests also include skiing, jogging, playing the flute and piano. She has also worked as a preschool teacher and as a volunteer for the Children's Advocacy Center for Denton County, furthering her knowledge and experience pertaining to children's development. She is also a member of Phi Kappa Phi at TWU.

Mills has presented student and professional presentations including *Integrating Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum While Promoting Play; Fostering Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum*; and *Teacher Training: Classroom Environments and Planning Center Activities*. She is a member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, National Scholars Honor Society, and participates in numerous community service activities.

“I am very honored to be a recipient of the Virginia Chandler Dykes scholarship, which will enable me to begin pursuit of my doctoral studies – a huge milestone in my life.”

In addition to Mills, the other graduate students from all four TWU colleges who will be honored at the luncheon as recipients of scholarship funds include: **Heather Roberts**, College of Health Sciences (Occupational Therapy), sponsored by Edgemere Dallas; **Kathleen Shannon-McAdams**, RN, MSN, ANP-BC, College of Nursing, sponsored by CIGNA; and **Tiffany Smith**, College of Arts and Sciences, sponsored by Sis Carr.

TWU's 10th Annual Virginia Chandler Dykes Leadership Award Luncheon, Feb. 16, at the Belo Mansion and Pavilion, will honor Myrna D. Schlegel and Kimberly Schlegel Whitman, as the 2012 recipients of the Virginia Chandler Dykes Leadership Award. For more information, call Texas Woman's University at 940-898-3878 or email [foundation@twu.edu](mailto:foundation@twu.edu). Tickets are \$175 for Silver Patron and \$250 for Gold Patron.

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**Texas Woman's University** is a public university that occupies a notable position in higher education as the nation's largest university primarily for women. Its campuses in Denton, Dallas and Houston are joined by an e-learning campus offering innovative online degree programs in

business, education and general studies. Ten consecutive years of growth have produced a record enrollment of 14,740. TWU serves the citizens of Texas in many important ways, including: graduating more new healthcare professionals than any other university in Texas; easing the teacher shortage by placing highly qualified professionals in the classroom; offering a liberal arts-based curriculum that prepares students for success in a global society; and conducting research that impacts the prevention and treatment of childhood obesity, osteoporosis, stroke and diabetes. For more information, visit [www.twu.edu](http://www.twu.edu) <<http://www.twu.edu/>> or call (940) TWU-2000.