NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEST POINT CADET EARNS GEM SCHOLARSHIP – May 21, 2014

WEST POINT, N.Y. – Cadet Derrick Hall, Class of 2014, has been awarded an Engineering Fellowship by the National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering and Science Foundation and will earn a Master of Science upon successful completion.

Hall, from Jersey City, New Jersey, is a chemistry (honors) track major, a member of the Excel Scholars Program, and will commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Military Intelligence Corps.

He has been accepted to the College of Science, at Purdue University to pursue a Masters in Chemistry and will be conducting research with Pacific Northwest Laboratories as part of his fellowship.

“I am honored and blessed to receive the GEM Fellowship,” said Hall. “It is a testament to the support and mentorship I received from my advisors both in the Chemistry & Life Science Department, and at West Point in general. My hope is that in the future I can use my graduate degree to inspire an appreciation and excitement for science in others the way my instructors here inspired and maintained that excitement in me.”

The mission of The National GEM Consortium is to enhance the value of the nation's human capital by increasing the participation of underrepresented groups (African Americans, American Indians, and Hispanic Americans) at the master's and doctoral levels in engineering and science. GEM prepares technical leaders for advanced careers in industry, academia, and government agencies by identifying and selecting highly qualified students to complete a program of STEM graduate study and industry internships. Through their university and employer members, and other strategic partners, GEM develops funding to award fellowships and builds mentor networks to support fellows in achieving academic and professional success.

The Excel Scholars Program is a Dean's-sponsored initiative started in 2010 to promote the personal and professional excellence of high performing cadets from underrepresented groups by encouraging them to strive for a higher standard and be an instrument for change. Excel accomplishes this mission through promoting diversity of the cadet leadership participant pool,
identification of promising cadets from historically underrepresented groups, encouragement of ongoing excellence in the academic, military, and physical dimensions of the West Point Leader Development System (WPLDS), and the nurturing of the talent to compete for post-graduate scholarship opportunities.

About West Point:
The U. S. Military Academy at West Point is a four-year co-educational federal undergraduate liberal arts college located 50 miles north of New York City. It was founded in 1802 as America’s first college of engineering and is world-renown for leader development. Its mission remains constant—to educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets so that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character committed to the values of Duty, Honor, Country and prepared for a career of professional excellence and service to the nation as an officer in the U. S. Army. For more information, go to www.westpoint.edu.

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