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CONTACT: March Kessler  
[mkessler@ecmc.org](mailto:mkessler@ecmc.org)

# ECMC Scholars PROGRAM

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## **ECMC Foundation To Award Additional \$600,000 in Scholarships to Virginia Students** ***Funding For Second Cycle of ECMC Scholars Program Increases Pledge to \$1,200,000.***

ECMC Foundation announced the funding of the second cycle of its ECMC Scholars Program, increasing its original \$600,000 pledge in scholarships to serve Virginia public high school students to \$1,200,000. 100 students from the graduating class of 2006 will join 100 students from the graduating class of 2005 who are eligible to earn up to \$6,000 each in scholarships for higher education. The ECMC Scholars Program seeks to increase participation in postsecondary education by economically or otherwise disadvantaged students, and to challenge those students to better prepare for postsecondary education during their junior and senior years of high school.

“The success of the initial year was the significant determinant in deciding to fund this program for the second year,” said ECMC Group CEO Richard Boyle. “ECMC Scholars Program received a tremendous reception from students and educators from every region of the Commonwealth of Virginia.” The original ten schools that were selected according to need-based criteria by ECMC Foundation with the assistance of the Virginia Department of Education will continue to participate in the program. The schools are:

- Brunswick Senior High School, Brunswick County Public Schools
- Buckingham County High School, Buckingham County Public Schools
- Central High School, King and Queen County Public Schools
- Coeburn High School, Wise County Public Schools
- Ervinton High School, Dickenson County Public Schools
- Harrisonburg High School, Harrisonburg City Public Schools
- John F. Kennedy High School, Richmond City Public Schools
- Wakefield High School, Arlington County Public Schools
- William Fleming High School, Roanoke City Public Schools
- Woodrow Wilson High School, Portsmouth City Public Schools

Each high school formed its own ECMC Scholars Program committee of guidance counselors, teachers and principals. These committees will be expanded to accommodate a second cycle of students. Committees establish academic standards, identify students for program participation, and determine eligibility for postsecondary tuition grants.

Each school's ECMC Scholars Program committee tracks the performance of the candidates during their junior and senior years. Student participants are advised on their level of academic progress and encouraged to maintain or increase their academic performance to assure receipt of the ECMC Scholars Program grant. Each successful candidate will receive an initial \$4,000 award for tuition at an accredited postsecondary institution. Upon the successful completion of the first year of postsecondary study and re-enrollment for a second year, each student will receive an additional award of \$2,000.

"These scholarships will have a lasting impact on the students receiving them," said Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction Jo Lynne DeMary. "The generosity of the ECMC Foundation will yield results not only to the ECMC Scholars candidates in the Classes of 2005 and 2006, but for the coming decades as these students go on to make higher education decisions and career choices."

The ECMC Scholars Program is distinctive in that candidates for grants are selected by educators who personally know them and can judge their potential. Each committee has the opportunity to customize the program to the needs of their specific student population. ECMC Scholars are challenged to earn their grants by meeting specially designed performance expectations established by their own counselors and teachers, rather than competing with a large pool of potential grant recipients in a general, non-specific program.

Fully funded for years one and two, the ECMC Scholars Program is envisioned as a five-year program, providing up to \$3,000,000 in scholarships to Virginia students, contingent on future funding availability.

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