

News Release

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Contact:
Vicki Whebbe
vwhebbe@ecmc.org



ECMC Foundation is an ECMC Group company.

ECMC Scholars

PROGRAM

ECMC Foundation awards grants to its third class of ECMC Scholars

Ninety-eight Virginia public high school students have graduated as ECMC Scholars. This honor represents dedication and hard work on the part of each student in their pursuit of higher education and includes a scholarship award of \$4,000 to be used for their first year at a postsecondary institution. Each ECMC Scholar is eligible for an additional \$2,000 by attending a second year of higher education. Allowable uses for this scholarship are the same as for Pell Grants.

The 2007 ECMC Scholars are:

Brunswick High School

Maketta Carter
Nancy Easter
Whitney Gillis
Jeliece Goodrich
Jessica Graine
John Harrison
Jessica Hurdle
KeShawn Palmer
Brittney Robinson
Rodrick Simmons

Buckingham High School

Alex Austin
John Bartee
Cha'mika Bolden
Whitney Elridge
Tierra Gough
Desiree Gregory
Ashley Jones
Lakeyia Kyle
Kiki Ross
Courtney Shumaker

Coeburn High School

Allison Anderson
Derek Sartin
Dustin Funk
Amanda Stanley
Christina Graham
Brittany Bones
Tanya Rose Shelton
Orrin Stallard
Stephanie Yeary
Jeremy Jordan

Ervinton

Kayla Deel
Toby Garrett
Samantha Grizzle
Adam Kiser
Evan McCowan
Sarah Moore
Malory Nichols
Pamela Phillips
Aaron Powers
Ashley Turner

Central High School

Bryant Gray
Katelin Morris
Natalie Browning
Melinda White
Nakita Johnson
Ananais Millner
Charmia Harvey
Brittany Collins
Janae Clark
Brittany Gresham

Harrisonburg High School

Shant Fields
Vitaliy Mikhayluk
Esteban Paulino
Jody Plymale
Rachelle Rucker
Einar Sierra
Maksim Stadnik
Samuel Thomas
Cristina Torres

(more)

Sussex Central High School

Luis Cruz Mola
Anisha Graves
Ashley Jones
Michail Price
Whitney Petticolos
Lekendra Chatman
Michael Kessinger
Monquisha Hinton
Ciara Jackson
Chrystal Laniew
Lakedra Moyler
Christina Morton
Latonya Chandler

Wakefield High School

Jamal Jones
Marcos Henderson
John Crouch
Sergio Chavez
Tye Beal
Jennifer Arevalo
Elijah Gormes

**Woodrow Wilson
High School**

Jashawn Copeland
Emily da Silva
Marlon Fowler
Jacqueline Knight
Stevi Luck
Miacha Parsons

Ariel Ramirez
Martina Scott
Charles Tate
Stephanie Theus

**William Fleming
High School**

Janasia Barnes
Jalisa Barnhill
Antwanisha Brailsford
Jatara Gladden
Whitney Hill
Brittany Pannell
Ryan Sample
Donald Sanders
Anjelica St. Louis

ECMC Foundation has pledged \$3,840,000 to date in higher education scholarships to Virginia and Oregon students.

In 2003, ECMC Foundation and the Virginia Department of Education joined in a partnership to create the Virginia ECMC Scholars Program to increase participation in postsecondary education by low-income, first-generation college-going students and challenge these students to better prepare during their junior and senior years of high school. Ten Virginia high schools were chosen to participate according to need-based criteria. Each high school formed its own ECMC Scholars Program Committee, which includes guidance counselors, teachers, and other high school educators. These committees choose the students they feel would most benefit from additional mentoring and involvement in a special scholarship program, and whose past grades and test scores may not have indicated their true potential.

"The most we can ask of students is that they live up to their potential," said Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction Billy K. Cannaday Jr. "I congratulate all of our 2007 ECMC Scholars and thank ECMC Foundation for helping these young men and women achieve their dreams."

In 2006, ECMC Foundation expanded the program to Oregon in partnership with the Oregon Department of Education. The first class of Oregon ECMC Scholars will graduate in 2008.

"On behalf of ECMC Foundation, I commend our third graduating class of Virginia ECMC Scholars for their hard work." said March Kessler, Executive Director, ECMC Foundation. "We thank the ten participating high schools for partnering with us to prepare these students to pursue their higher education goals".

ECMC Scholars Program is distinctive in that those who personally know the scholarship candidates select them and judge their potential. ECMC Scholars are challenged to earn their scholarships 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, nonspecific program.

About ECMC Foundation

ECMC Foundation, an ECMC Group company, helps low-income, first-generation college-going students further their educational goals. Through innovative outreach programs, we convey to students the importance of completing high school, and continue our mission by developing and distributing programs that focus on college access, retention, and success. ECMC Foundation partners with government agencies, educational institutions, and other foundations to make the dream of higher education a reality. For more program and service information, visit www.ecmcfoundation.org.

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