

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



MCPS Educational Foundation Awards over \$541,000 in Scholarships for Fiscal Year 2010 and 2011

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ROCKVILLE, MD—The Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Educational Foundation, Inc. has concluded its selection process for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 scholarship program. The Foundation with the support of Montgomery County legislators, including delegates and senators, awarded \$266,000 for 144 graduating Montgomery County high school students and previous awardees that are continuing their education and are in need of financial assistance. During FY 2010, collectively we awarded \$275,000 in scholarships to 116 students. Over the past two years, there has been a surge in applications and we have funded over \$540,000 in scholarships which underscores the growing financial need for students who are pursuing their future career goals.

Again for 2011, District 15 delegates Kathleen Dumais, Brian Feldman, and Craig Rice pledged all of their funds in support of scholarship awards to students who have the most pressing financial needs. This year, District 19 Senator Lenett partnered with the Foundation and pledged all of his funds for student scholarships which also were based on financial need.

Mr. Larry A. Bowers, chief operating officer of the Montgomery County Public Schools was quoted, “We have seen a significant increase in the number of applications over the past two years and anticipate that number will grow in the future. We are appreciative of the support provided by so many Montgomery County legislators who have worked with the Foundation to help graduating seniors have a chance at a college education.”

For more than a decade, the MCPS Educational Foundation has been helping Montgomery County students by awarding partial and full scholarships. The majority of the scholarships are for students who attend Montgomery College. Some students have received funding for other state universities and colleges including the University of Maryland College Park, Baltimore County, and Eastern Shore; Frostburg University; and Towson University.

The MCPS Educational Foundation, Inc. scholarship program was established in honor of Dr. Paul L. Vance, former superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools as a retirement gift in perpetuity. Dr. Vance attended college on scholarships as did the Scholarship Committee Chair, the Honorable Esther P. Gelman, former County Council president. The goal of the scholarship program is to meet the need for low income students to have an opportunity to further their career goals. Many of these students work nights and weekend jobs to help their families while attending school.

The scholarship program allows students who were both academically successful and financially deserving an opportunity to have an education that will provide them a future and a career. A college education is the continuation of the student's primary and secondary education. The Foundation takes the responsibility to help these students.

The MCPS Educational Foundation also awards scholarships on behalf of a number of private family foundations including the Sniper Victim Fund that was established in 2003 and others. A number of scholarship winners have gone on to earn degrees from four-year institutions and enter graduate school. Montgomery College provides special help and support to scholarship recipients.

The MCPS Educational Foundation, which was founded in 1989, has as an objective that no student should forego a higher education for financial reasons. To qualify for an Educational Foundation scholarship, students must be a graduating senior from a Montgomery County high school and must show financial need. Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded \$1,250,000 scholarships in addition to nearly \$1,000,000 in grants.

The Montgomery County Public Schools Educational Foundation also provides funds for special and innovative MCPS programs that the annual school budget cannot support including our Small Grant program that funds innovative programs and special equipment; and the Extended Technology Hours Grant program for at-risk students. Montgomery County Public Schools serves more than 140,000 students in 200 school buildings, making it the largest school system in Maryland and the 16th largest school system in the nation.

About Montgomery County Public Schools Educational Foundation

The Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Educational Foundation, Inc. is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization that receives funds from charitable foundations, government granting agencies, cooperative business, estates of deceased persons, and helpful citizens. With those funds, the Foundation carefully awards scholarships for graduating seniors and funds to MCPS staff for projects designed to support their programs. You can learn more about the foundation at www.mcpsfoundation.org.