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NEWS RELEASE

THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS OVER \$250,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO 64 AREA STUDENTS

June 1, 2007

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The Community Foundation of the Dan River Region has awarded over \$250,000 in scholarships to 64 area students. Presentations were recently made from 21 different scholarship funds within The Community Foundation.

“We are so excited to help open the doors of the future to so many students,” said Debra L. Dodson, Executive Director for The Community Foundation. “We have awarded over \$700,000 in scholarships to almost 250 students since the Foundation was begun in 1996.”

The **James W. Bryant and James T. Collie Scholarship** was established with The Community Foundation of the Dan River Region in 2005 by a retired school teacher. The scholarship is for Pittsylvania County Public Schools graduates, with a preference for those pursuing education or nursing. Four scholarships of \$775 each were presented to **Whitney Ellis** (Patrick Henry Community College), **Brittany Fuller** (Longwood University), **Christine Gore** (Patrick Henry Community College) and **Jason Shelton** (Longwood University).

The **Bernard C. Calvert Scholarship** was established in 2004 by the Brosville Council #51 of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics. The scholarship is restricted to Tunstall High School

graduates, preferably students who attended either Brosville or Stony Mill Schools. Calvert Scholarships of \$1,050 were awarded to **Andrew Baggerly** and **Ryan Gatewood** to attend Virginia Tech.

SCHOLARSHIPS

PAGE 2

The **Danville Academic Boosters Club Scholarship** was awarded to the top five scholastic students in Danville Public Schools – **Heather Knecht (Galileo)**, **Kristen Fuquay (GWHS)**, **Rachel Brinkley (GWHS)**, **Christopher Hill (GWHS)** and **Melissa Thompson (GWHS)**.

The **John Watson Daniel Scholarship** was established by the JWD Retirement Club in 1997. One scholarship of \$225 was awarded to GW senior **Brandon Clark** to attend Virginia State College.

One student received the **John R. and Betty B. Eggleston Scholarship**, established in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Eggleston in 2002. **Trinay Jeffries**, a George Washington High School senior, received \$625 to attend Old Dominion University.

The **Margaret Spruce Floyd Scholarship** was established in memory of Mrs. Floyd and transferred to The Community Foundation in 2004. The scholarship is awarded to female high school students from Pittsylvania County. Four Margaret Spruce Floyd scholarships were awarded this year. **Sarah Moore** received \$875 to attend James Madison University. The remaining students received \$500 each – **Amanda Dixon (William and Mary)**, **Carla Porterfield (Montreat College)** and **Margaret Rigney (Longwood University)**.

Eight Danville area **Gignac Scholars** will continue their studies at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago with an annual support totaling \$157,800. The Gignac Scholars are **Patrick Bray**, **Joseph Clark**, **Jennifer Gambrell**, **Corey Hawker**, **Jason Lemery**, **Sayiddah McCree**, **Andrew Mey** and **Andrew Rust**.

SCHOLARSHIPS

PAGE 3

The **Ray M. Harris Scholarship** was created in memory of Mr. Harris and transferred to The Community Foundation in 2004. The scholarship gives primary consideration to Pittsylvania County high school graduates. A total of nine **Ray M. Harris Undergraduate** scholarships were presented this year. Each student was awarded \$5,000 – **Kathleen Baines** (William and Mary), **Rachel Brinkley** (University of Virginia), **Colin Burnett** (University of Virginia), **Carla Emerson** (Lynchburg College), **Brittany Fuller** (Longwood University), **Morgan Gibson** (University of Virginia), **Tiara Lewis** (Howard University), **Amanda Matherly** (James Madison University) and **Nathan Noble** (Virginia Tech). **David Divine** received \$10,000 from the **Ray M. Harris Graduate Scholarship** to attend Shenandoah University.

The **Stuart Harris Drama Scholarship** recognizes outstanding drama students in the Danville Public Schools. George Washington High School senior **Leah Arthur** received \$600 to continue her education at the University of Virginia at Wise and Galileo Magnet High School senior **Rachel Waters** received \$600 to attend Radford University.

The **John L. Hurt, Jr. Scholarship** supports students from Northern Pittsylvania County, with a preference for students who have attended the John L. Hurt, Jr. Elementary School. Scholarships of \$1,200 each were given to **Joseph Cochran** to attend Hampden-Sydney and **Jasmine Waller** to attend Radford University.

Four scholarships totaling \$5,450 were awarded from the **Onnie H & Bertie W. Milloway Scholarship** to assist area students who attend Averett University. Scholarships were presented to current Averett students **Brittany Shepherd-Walker** and **Pattie Keatts** and to high school seniors **Benjamin Boatwright** and **Dustin Echols**.

The **Patrick H. Musick Scholarship** was established recently for needy, talented students attending Averett University, with a preference shown to students who have a tennis-playing background. This year's scholarship of \$525 was awarded to **Pattie Keatts**.

SCHOLARSHIPS

PAGE 4

Three area students received scholarships of \$1,150 from the **Irene L. Pritchett Scholarship**, created years ago to benefit area black students. The Pritchett scholarship was transferred to The Community Foundation in 2001. Gretna seniors **Talisha Parker** and **Shanice Venable** plan to attend Radford and the Jefferson College of Health Sciences while Chatham senior **Jocelyn Saunders** plans to attend George Mason University.

The **Alger Pugh Memorial Scholarship** was created in memory of Alger Pugh, GW High School football coach, after his death in 1984. The scholarship was then transferred to The Community Foundation and is given to deserving GW athletes. Three students were awarded \$1,000 scholarships – **Rachel Brinkley** (University of Virginia), **Rachel Covington** (University of Mary Washington), and **Elizabeth Rae Gilbert** (Radford University). **Kelli McFarling** received \$575 to attend the University of Virginia.

Four scholarships of \$650 were given from the **Riddle-Francis Scholarship**, which was created in 2005 by a retired teacher to benefit Pittsylvania County students, with a preference for Tunstall and Dan River students. Scholarships were awarded to Tunstall seniors **Andrew Baggerly** (Virginia Tech) and **Kristen Chilton** (Patrick Henry Community College), and to Dan River seniors **Kristie McDowell** (Averett University) and **Tamela Warren** (Hampton University).

The **Spiros Skenderis Memorial Scholarship**, which was created by the Danville Bar Association in memory of Judge Spiros Skenderis. Judge Skenderis served as a compassionate judge of the Danville Juvenile and Domestic Relations District for 19 years. Two \$625 scholarships were given to **Dennis Proffitt** who is graduating from Tunstall High School and plans to attend Danville Community College and **Katie Reynolds** who is a Dan River senior and plans to attend Danville Community College.

The **Eileen and Joseph Stendig Scholarship** was created in 2005 to benefit area students with a financial need. GW seniors **Warner Watkins**

and **Waverly Watkins** received scholarships of \$1,325 to continue their studies at Morehouse College.

SCHOLARSHIPS

PAGE 5

The **GW Class of 1955** created the **Eugene Stryker Scholarship** at their 50th reunion. Mr. Stryker served as a musical director for George Washington High School for nearly 40 years and actually started bands in the Danville Public Schools in 1949. Mr. Stryker passed away in January of 2006, just months after being recognized by the Class of 1955. GW senior **Christopher Hill** received \$460 to study at the University of Virginia.

Two scholarships of \$950 were awarded from the **Louise P. Surles Scholarship**. The Surles Scholarship supports area students who attend the University of Virginia. The scholarships were presented to **Phillip Dameron**, a Tunstall High School senior, and **Kevin Patel**, a Gretna High School senior.

Two George Washington High School students received scholarships of \$1,625 from the **Andy Warren Memorial Scholarship**. The Warren Scholarship was created in memory of GW High School assistant football coach and is given to deserving GW athletes. **Zachary Harrelson** will attend Hampden-Sydney while **Nicholas Mazzoni** will attend High Point University.

The Community Foundation of the Dan River Region, formerly known as DPC Community Foundation, is a public charity with total assets of \$17 million. The Foundation serves a region from Martinsville-Henry County to South Boston/Halifax County, including the neighboring North Carolina counties.

The Community Foundation of the Dan River Region is a fully tax-exempt organization. Individuals or businesses may establish their own endowment or scholarship fund or may contribute any amount to existing funds. For more information, contact Debra L. Dodson at 541 Loyal Street, P.O. Box 1039, Danville, VA 24543, (434) 793-0884 or visit their web site www.cfdr.org.