

## News Release

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ECMC Foundation is an ECMC Group company.

## ECMC Foundation awards grants to its fourth class of ECMC Scholars

Ninety-six 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 2008 Virginia ECMC Scholars are:

### **Brunswick High School**

Kameesha Banks  
Antonio Epps  
Ashley Fortson  
Shamika Ghee  
Brittany Harrison  
DeVonne Lewis  
Demarcus Macklin  
Demond Mallory  
Martisa Stith  
Shawna Robertson

### **Coeburn High School**

Huey Ellis  
Justin Greear  
Natisha Howard  
Lucas Hutchinson  
Shannon Igo  
Elisha Jenkins  
Samantha Lentchner  
Hailey Mullins  
Brittany Salyers  
Stephanie Wingler

### **Harrisonburg High School**

Enkhzaya Burged  
Ingred Centeno  
Xitlalite Cortes  
Nora Davila  
Bryan Hall  
Joyce Hannum  
Yakov Kushnar  
Michelle Ramirez  
Silvi Stefi  
Charles VanAuken

### **Buckingham High School**

Jason Bryant  
Jessica Eldridge  
Casey Goode  
Jeremy Gray  
Tyler Hunter  
Matthew Knighting  
Kristen Lee  
Jessica Shumaker  
Amanda Tracy  
Jeremiah Williams

### **Ervinton**

Jacob Austin  
Justin Day  
Whitney Deel  
Robyn Duncan  
Michael Dunn  
Brandon Edwards  
Tyler Timothy Brock Meade  
Isaac Moore  
Lori Moore  
Nikki Silcox  
Amber Ward

### **King & Queen Central High School**

Sara Brannon  
Sheree Coleman  
Sheron Coleman  
Candice Loving  
Shayla Matthews  
Monique Morris  
NaChell Nelson  
Ashely Robinson  
Shantell Russ

**Sussex Central High School**

Felita Boone  
Mark Brown  
Jackie Damron  
James Gibson  
Corey Goines  
Christopher Guthrie  
Whittney Harvell

**William Fleming High School**

Ashley Canty  
Brittany Dillard  
Devynne Espeut  
Brittanie Jones  
Malcolm Jones  
Tashara Little  
Moneka Reeves  
Christina St. Louis  
Brittani Taylor

**Woodrow Wilson High School**

Tobias Amos  
Krystal Cahoon  
Heather Clark  
Jacquelynn Doeller  
Kirstyne Floyd  
Ashley Hardy  
Lacey Hughes  
Keaira Jones  
Christopher Moore  
Runeda Scott

**Wakefield High School**

Alexander Henderson  
Darian Holmes  
Malake Jabbara  
Mahlet Kahsay  
Isela Melendez  
Charles Nguyen  
Jorge Santos Taborda  
Madelaine Torres  
Flor De Maria Vargas Stevez  
Randall Webster

ECMC Foundation has pledged \$3.6 million to date in higher education scholarships to Virginia 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.

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 this year.

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 community organizations to make the dream of higher education a reality. For more program and service information, visit [www.ecmcfoundation.org](http://www.ecmcfoundation.org).