

News Release

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2005 Virginia ECMC Scholars show Program's early success *Many enroll in Virginia schools*

High school completion and postsecondary enrollment rates for the first class of Virginia ECMC Scholars (2005 high school graduates) show that the Program is on the right track in helping these students achieve their educational goals. Sponsored by ECMC Foundation, ECMC Scholars candidates were chosen at the end of their sophomore year by high school counselors and teachers at 10 participating schools. These committees chose the students they felt 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 ECMC Scholars and their dedicated educator-mentor Program administrators can claim some significant achievements:

- 99 out of 100 students selected for scholarship awards graduated from high school.
- 84 of the 99 award recipients currently are enrolled in a postsecondary institution.
- A majority of the high school GPAs for the Virginia ECMC Scholars showed an average increase of 0.05 grade points during their time in the Program.

ECMC Foundation is proud that in addition to providing these funds to deserving students, the Program is positively impacting Virginia postsecondary institutions as well as Virginia communities at large since **81 percent of the students have enrolled in in-state schools.**

ECMC Foundation and its affiliated company, Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC) – the designated Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) guarantor for the Commonwealth of Virginia – congratulate the 2005 Virginia ECMC Scholars as well as the high school educator committees for providing activities and mentorship that truly make a difference.

(more)

About ECMC Scholars Program

In 2003, the Virginia Department of Education and ECMC Foundation joined in a partnership to create the Virginia ECMC Scholars Program. The Virginia Department of Education chose 10 Virginia high schools that had a high percentage of students meeting the following criteria: free and reduced lunch participation, limited English proficiency, and no plans after graduation. Every year, 10 students from each of these schools are selected to participate in the Program. Each student is eligible to earn \$6,000 in scholarships. ECMC Foundation has pledged \$2.4 million to date, which will reach a total of 400 Virginia high school students. The Program focuses on student potential rather than past performance. Educator committees from each school choose the students they feel will most benefit from the Program's additional mentoring and grant incentives.

In 2006, ECMC Scholars Program was expanded to students in Oregon. The Oregon Department of Education selected seven schools to participate, and 10 sophomore students from each school have been chosen.

About ECMC Foundation

ECMC Foundation, an ECMC Group company, helps underserved and disadvantaged populations 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. ECMC Foundation's affiliate, Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC), also serves the higher education industry as the designated Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) student loan guarantor for the Commonwealth of Virginia and state of Oregon. For more program and service information, visit www.ecmcfoundation.org and www.ecmc.org.

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