



ECMC Foundation is an ECMC Group company.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 24, 2006

Superintendent Susan Castillo & ECMC Foundation President Jennifer Wise Name Seven Oregon ECMC Scholars Schools

SALEM – State Schools Superintendent Susan Castillo and ECMC Foundation President Jennifer Wise announced today that seven Oregon high schools have been chosen for the Oregon ECMC Scholars program.

The Oregon ECMC Scholars high schools are:

- Centennial Learning Center (Portland)
- Illinois Valley High School (Cave Junction)
- Madison High School (Portland)
- Milwaukie High School (Milwaukie)
- Pendleton High School (Pendleton)
- Willamette High School (Eugene)
- Woodburn High School (Woodburn).

In 2005, the Oregon Department of Education and ECMC Foundation joined in a partnership to create the new Oregon ECMC Scholars Program. The Oregon ECMC Scholars Program will increase participation in postsecondary education by economically or otherwise disadvantaged students and challenge students to better prepare during their junior and senior years of high school.

ECMC Foundation has pledged \$420,000 in scholarships to fund higher education for Oregon public high school students. Seven high schools from Oregon will be selected to participate in the program, and seventy students, ten from each school, will be eligible to earn \$6,000 in scholarships. Allowable uses for this scholarship are the same as the uses for Pell Grants. Fully funded for year one, the Oregon ECMC Scholars Program is envisioned as a five-year program, providing up to \$2,100,000 in scholarships to Oregon students, contingent on future funding approval.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for students at these seven high schools, and this scholarship will change lives,” Castillo said. “Twenty-eight schools submitted applications, and the schools were also reviewed based on statewide representation, percentage of low income students and percentage of students going on to college.

“This is good news for Oregon high schools, and we will work to expand this program in the future,” Castillo said. “The Oregon ECMC Scholars program is a great idea, and I want to thank ECMC Foundation for their vision and financial support.”

"ECMC Foundation is proud to partner with the Oregon Department of Education to encourage access to and success in higher education for underserved Oregon high school students" said Wise.

Each Oregon ECMC Scholars high school will form its own committee, made up of guidance counselors, teachers, and other high school educators. These committees will choose the students they feel will most benefit from additional mentoring and early involvement in a scholarship program and whose past grades and test scores may not indicate their true potential. Candidates will be selected from the students who will complete their high school sophomore year in the spring of 2006.

ECMC Scholars Program is distinctive in that scholarship candidates are selected by those who personally know them and can judge their potential. ECMC Scholars are challenged to earn their scholarships by meeting performance expectations established by their own counselors and teachers, rather than competing within a large pool of potential grant recipients in a non personalized selection process. In addition, the high school educators are eligible to receive monetary stipends for mentoring these students.

ECMC Foundation operates under the umbrella of the parent organization, ECMC Group. ECMC Group's mission is "Helping Educate America". ECMC Foundation seeks opportunities to help currently underserved or disadvantaged students further their educational goals, with a focus on support in states where ECMC Group does business. ECMC, another ECMC Group affiliate, was chosen by the U.S. Department of Education as the designated guarantor for the state of Oregon, effective Jan. 1, 2005.