

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Third Annual Scholarship Day Celebration

A Press Conference will be held on Wednesday, May 24, 2006 at 9:30 am on the first floor of the State House to Proclaim May as Scholarship Month.

The South Carolina General Assembly established the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program in 1988 to retain outstanding high school graduates in the State through awards based on scholarship and achievement. Palmetto Fellows may receive up to \$6700 per academic year towards the cost-of-attendance for the first baccalaureate degree at a participating higher education institution in the State.

Roslyn Curry, a 2006 high school senior, states that the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship will give her the opportunity to attend the college of her choice by assisting her family with the expenses associated with higher education. My parents have worked hard to provide for our family but were unable to save for college tuition. This Scholarship is one of the main reasons that I will be able to attend college and pursue my dream of becoming a medical professional.

The LIFE Scholarship, established in 1998, is a merit-based award designed to increase access to higher education, improve the employability of South Carolina students, provide incentives for students to be better prepared for college, and encourage students to graduate from college on time. LIFE Scholarship recipients may receive up to \$5000 per academic year towards the cost-of-attendance at a SC four-year institution and up to the cost of tuition plus a \$300 book allowance at a SC two-year institution.

Daniel Crompton, a pre-medicine student at Midlands Technical College who has received the LIFE Scholarship for four consecutive semesters, shared, "School is hard enough without having to worry about where the money is going to come from to pay for tuition and books. The LIFE Scholarship has taken this extra stress off of my back for four semesters. In addition, it has given me the ability to concentrate on my studies instead of having to work part-time and risk lowering my GPA".

Catherine Rivers, a parent of a USC sophomore, indicated that first and foremost, the LIFE Scholarship money going towards the education took a tremendous financial burden off of our family. At the same time it gave my son a sense of accomplishment for his good grades and self-worth because he was able to contribute financially to his college education.

The SC HOPE Scholarship Program was established in 2001 but was not implemented until the 2002-03 academic year. It is a merit-based award designed for first-time entering freshmen attending four-year institutions. The General Assembly authorized funding in the amount of up to \$2,650 per student (not to exceed the cost of attendance) at a SC four-year institution, which includes a \$150 book allowance.

Jeffrey Simmons, a 2006 graduate of Ridgeview High School, indicates he is very grateful to receive the SC HOPE Scholarship. He has always been taught that education is the key to success and this will help me accomplish my goal. The SC Hope Scholarship encourages me to work harder and dedicate myself to achieving the best possible education. I am aware that no one is entitled to receive a scholarship and I feel truly blessed and privileged to receive this honor.

Students will be joined by their families, principals, guidance counselors, Senators and House Members for this special press event.

The Third Annual Scholarship Day Celebration will celebrate the current level of State scholarship support that enables students to achieve their postsecondary educational goals. It will also emphasize the value of postsecondary education in filling jobs in SC with a prepared workforce and educated citizenry.