



School District of Indian River County

A Grade "A" School District

Dr. Harry J. La Cava, Superintendent

PRESS RELEASE

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DATE: May 15, 2009

SUBJECT: Dollars for Scholars 44th Annual Awards Night

The public is invited to the *Dollars for Scholars 44th Annual Awards Night* on Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., at Sebastian River High School Performing Arts Center. A reception for donors and alumni will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria.

Founded by Dan K. Richardson and members of the Vero Beach Rotary Club, *Dollars for Scholars* works toward the mission of providing hope, encouragement and scholarship opportunities to students who demonstrate academic ability, desire for higher education, and financial need. Dollars for Scholars of Indian River County will award \$395,500 in need-based college scholarships to students from the Class of 2009. This annual event celebrates the achievements of Indian River County's high school graduates and rewards their hard work with college scholarships provided through the generosity of more than 600 local residents, business owners, organizations and foundations.

Since 1965, Dollars for Scholars has awarded more than \$6.7 million in college scholarships to 2,400 students. Of the 73 students receiving awards this year, most are graduating seniors from Sebastian River High School, Vero Beach High School, the Indian River Charter High School, St. Edward's Upper School and Master's Academy; three are current college students, one is a community college student and one is a non-traditional student working full-time and attending college full-time, having returned to pursue higher education after raising a family.

This year's recipients will be attending 26 different colleges and universities, including The George Washington University, Boston University, the University of Pennsylvania, Savannah College of Art and Design, the University of North Carolina, The University of Notre Dame, Cornell University, Florida State University, the University of Florida, Flagler College, Florida Christian College, Florida Institute of Technology, Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University,

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New College of Florida, and the universities of Central Florida, North Florida, West Florida and South Florida.

New for 2009:

To commemorate the passing of long-time Dollars for Scholars Board Member Morris A. "Darby" Gibbons, the evening is being dedicated to Darby and the impact he made on so many students over the years. The inaugural **Darby Gibbons Memorial Scholarship** will be awarded to a deserving student. This award was made possible by the generous donations of friends and family of Gibbons who contributed since his death in late January.

Another new scholarship will be the **Jessica Smith Scholarship Award** sponsored by ReMax Premier Property Showcase of Vero Beach. This award honors Jessica Smith, a Vero Beach resident who died in March 2008 at the age of 17 after a lifelong battle with Cystic Fibrosis. The scholarship is being funded by donations from the ReMax associates and from the proceeds of an autographed football raffled off earlier this year.

Other scholarships are sponsored by the John's Island Community Service League, Quail Valley Charities, members of the Orchid Golf and Beach Club, residents of Oak Harbor and Regency Park, the Indian River Blood Bank, the Realtors Association of Indian River County, Wachovia Bank and the Rotary Clubs of Indian River County. The Indian River Symphonic Association is sponsoring two four-year scholarships this year for students pursuing college degrees in music. Representatives from many of these groups will be on hand to personally present their scholarships.

As always, the prestigious **Richardson Scholars Awards and Frances and Ronald Jaffe Education Foundation Scholarships** will be presented as the climax of the ceremony. These \$20,000 scholarships over four years are awarded through a very competitive process. Students not only submit academic and financial information, but are also scored on their essays, service to the community and on the basis of personal interviews with members of the Richardson-Jaffe selection panel.

The public is invited to share in this joyous event. Admission is free, but please RSVP to the Dollars for Scholars office at 569-9869 or by email to: office@DFSIndianRiver.org.

For more information, please contact Lisa Zahner, Executive Director, Dollars for Scholars at (772) 569-9869.

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