

6/28/06

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Bedford High, Voc-Tech, Students Win College Scholarships

Seven New Bedford graduating seniors have been awarded college scholarships through the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts (CFSEMA).

The students, who graduated this year from New Bedford High School (NBHS) and Greater New Bedford Vocational Technical High School (Voc-Tech), each received a scholarship from one of four funds administrated by CFSEMA.

The first, the **Jacobs Family New Bedford High School Scholarship**, was awarded to **Jenna Bergevin**, who will attend Bentley College; **Nathan Macedo**, who is headed for Boston College this fall; and **Matthew Pires**, who will attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The Jacobs Fund provides three \$24,000 scholarships to NBHS graduating seniors who will major in engineering, mathematics or science, including computer science, at an accredited college or university.

The scholarship fund was established at the Community Foundation in 2000 with a \$1 million gift from QUALCOMM founder and New Bedford native Dr. Irwin M. Jacobs and his wife, Joan Klein Jacobs. For each of the first three years, two seniors were awarded \$20,000, four-year scholarships. In 2005, Dr. and Mrs. Jacobs made an additional \$800,000 gift to the Foundation, increasing the number of scholarships available to 3 per year and the amount to \$24,000 over four years.

The **Kathleen Joyce Nelson Scholarship** was established in 2005 by the family of city native Kathleen Joyce Nelson, who died of breast cancer at age 34, to share her spirit and legacy. The \$2,000 scholarship was awarded this year to **Heather A. Cyr**, a 2006 NBHS graduate who will study animal science and technology at the University of Rhode Island.

The Kathleen Joyce Nelson Fund provides an annual scholarship to a graduating NBHS senior planning to major in government, political science or public service at a four-year college or university. Preference will be given to students who have struggled with cancer or have an affiliation with the cancer-stricken population through community service, employment, volunteer work or family involvement.

The **Louis M. Rusitzky Scholarship** provides one \$2,000 scholarship annually to a graduating senior at New Bedford High School who will major in business at a college or university. This year's recipient is **Jennifer Nobles**, a NBHS graduate will study business management at UMass Dartmouth.

The Fund was established by Louis Rusitzky at CFSEMA to serve as a reminder to graduates of New Bedford's history in past centuries of economic strength in whaling, textiles and

ocean products. Mr. Rusitzky also hopes the awards will inspire NBHS graduates to return to the city and establish businesses, especially manufacturing ones, that will provide employment, and draw suppliers and related businesses to the area.

The final scholarship is available through the **New Bedford Woman's Club**, and offers an annual award of \$500 to one graduating senior each from New Bedford High School and Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School. In 2006, the scholarships were awarded to **Sasha Santiago**, a Voc-Tech graduate who will study criminal justice at Bristol Community College, and **Blayne Lopes**, an NBHS graduate who plans to major in psychology/social work at Stonehill College.

The New Bedford Woman's Club was founded in 1909 to promote civic improvements and to provide an organized social center for women in Greater New Bedford. After more than a century of charitable work, the assets of the New Bedford Woman's Club were transferred to CFSEMA to establish a scholarship fund.

About the Community Foundation

Since 1995, area residents have been turning to the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts to make their philanthropic giving as effective as possible. CFSEMA is a public charity serving thousands of people who share a common concern – improving the quality of life in Southeastern Massachusetts.

To date, the Community Foundation has assets of \$15 million and has distributed nearly \$4 million from 63 funds to humanitarian, educational and cultural organizations in the region. More information about the Foundation can be found at www.cfsema.org.

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