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For Immediate Release

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

NEW BEDFORD – The Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts has awarded college scholarships from six scholarship funds to 2007 graduates of New Bedford High School (NBHS) and Greater New Bedford Vocational Technical High School (Voc-Tech).

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 \$2,100 scholarship was awarded this year to **Stephanie Bender**, a 2007 NBHS graduate who will study biology and pursue cancer research at UMass Amherst this fall.

Stephanie ranked 13th in her New Bedford High School Class of 549 students, is a member of the National Honor Society, and maintained “highest honors” throughout high school. She played for the school’s Junior Varsity and Varsity Soccer teams, and belonged to the Book, Photography and Drama Clubs, as well as the Debate Team. Stephanie also received a Student Athlete Award.

The Kathleen Joyce Nelson Fund gives preference 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.

Miss Bender was also one of three recipients of the **Jacobs Family New Bedford High School Scholarship**, a four-year, \$24,000 scholarship awarded each year to three graduating seniors who plan to study engineering, math or science, including computer science, in college. The fund was established at CFSEMA by city native and QUALCOMM founder Dr. Irwin Jacobs and his wife, Joan Klein Jacobs. The other two Jacobs Scholarship recipients are:

- **Joy Nightingale**, who graduated 2nd in her NBHS class and plans to study pre-medicine at Boston College. Joy was actively involved in school and community activities while in high school. She was a member of the National Honor Society and the Faculty Honor Roll, was a drum major for the high school marching band, vice president of the NBHS Jazz Band, and a member of the field hockey and track teams. Joy also was vice chair of the City of New Bedford Mayor’s Youth Council.
- **Brandon Roderick**, who ranked 5th in this years NBHS class and will attend Tufts University as a pre-medical student. Brandon also was a member of the National Honor Society, a Venture’s Scholar, and was on the Faculty Honor Roll. He was a 4-year homeroom representative, and belonged to the Medical Careers Club, the Book

Club, the Bowling Club and the Learning Leaders Network. Brandon also was the student representative on the New Bedford Drug Free Student Assistance Program Advisory Board.

The **Louis M. Rusitzky Scholarship** provides one \$2,300 scholarship annually to a graduating NBHS senior who will major in business at a college or university. This year's recipient is **Kayla Delgado**, who plans to study business and architecture at UMass Dartmouth. Kayla has been on the NBHS faculty honor roll since 2004, and belonged to the Ambassador, Chess and Drama clubs as well as Upward Bound. She has held volunteer and paid positions at the Boys and Girls Club of Greater New Bedford since 2003.

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 New Bedford Woman's Club awards an annual scholarship to one graduating senior each from New Bedford High School and Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School. This year, \$450 awards were given to **Brittany Letendre**, a Voc-Tech graduate, and **Courtney Nunes**, an NBHS graduate.

Brittany graduated third in her class at GNB Voc-Tech, where she studies cosmetology and aesthetics, was a member of the National Honor Society and was on the Principal's List of students with all grades of 90 or above. She also held down two part-time jobs while in high school. She plans to attend Bristol Community College and study psychology.

Courtney graduated sixth in her class at NBHS, where she was a member of the National Honor Society, the National Honor Roll and Editor of the yearbook. She also works as a page at the New Bedford Wilks Branch Library. Courtney hopes to study journalism at either Northeastern University or UMass Dartmouth.

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.

Courtney Nunes was also awarded the \$1,000 **Frank and Eleanor Gracie Scholarship**, established by Frank Gracie, Jr. to honor the memory of his wife Eleanor and sons David and Paul. The fund provides a minimum of one \$800 scholarship annually to a senior attending New Bedford High School.

The **Katherine Hassan Penton, New Bedford Class of 1948, Scholarship** of \$3,000 was awarded to 2007 NBHS Graduate **Patrick Andrews**, who will study pharmacy/chemistry at the University of Rhode Island. Patrick graduated 27th in his class at New Bedford High

School, was a member of the National Honor Society and was a four-year member of the NBHS Faculty Honor Roll. He was a four-year member of the Baseball and Golf teams.

The Katherine Hassan Penton Scholarship was established at the Community Foundation in 2006 for NBHS seniors who plan to major in a business or professional occupation. A New Bedford native who became a successful businesswoman, Katherine Penton established the scholarship in appreciation for the opportunities her education at NBHS and life in New Bedford have afforded her.

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