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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Two Fall River Area Grads Awarded Scholarships

FALL RIVER - Two area high school graduates have been awarded scholarships through the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts (CFSEMA).

The **Charles J. Lewin Interfaith Scholarship**, a \$1,600 award named in honor of the long-time editor and general manager of The New Bedford Standard-Times, was awarded to **Scott Phuong**, a 2007 graduate of BMC Durfee High School in Fall River. The second, a **\$9,000 Frank D. Sylvia Trust Scholarship**, has been awarded to **Chad R. Stewart** of Somerset, a 2007 graduate of Somerset High School.

**Scott Phuong** plans to study robotics engineering at Brown University. Scott graduated 25<sup>th</sup> in his class of more than 500 students and was named an "Outstanding Student of America Scholar." He was on the Durfee High School Principal's and All-A List. He was also a member of the National Honor Society, the Upward Bound program, Vice President of the Asian Club, President of the Astronomy Club, and on the Durfee Math Team. Scott has also been active in community service projects around Fall River.

**Chad Stewart** plans to attend Connecticut College to study business and international relations. He graduated 14<sup>th</sup> out of his class of 238 students with a 4.2 GPA in Advanced Placement and Honors classes. Chad was vice president of the National Honor Society, and was Captain of both the Cross Country and Wrestling Teams. He also belonged to Amnesty International, the International Relations Club and was a Student Council Class Representative. Chad achieved the rank of Eagle Scout and served in a number of leadership positions with the Somerset Boy Scout Troop 21.

The **Charles J. Lewin Interfaith Scholarship Fund** was formed in 1958 as the Interfaith Scholarship Foundation of New Bedford. In 1966, the Fund took on the name of Charles J. Lewin, in honor of the long-time editor and general manager of The Standard-Times, one of the Fund's founders. The Lewin Scholarship seeks to promote access to post-secondary education among the residents of Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes and Plymouth counties. In 1998, the fund was transferred to the Community Foundation.

The **Frank D. Sylvia Trust Scholarship** was established by Frank D. Sylvia to honor the memory of his late son, Frank P. Sylvia. It is limited to deserving Dighton or Somerset students who have financial need and who plan to attend a college or university. The scholarship (up to \$9,000) is granted for one year only, although recipients may reapply annually.

The CFSEMA committee that reviews the scholarship applications includes The Standard-Times' Credit Manager Jill Ussach; Chair Eileen Farley; Margherita Baldwin, Seth Garfield, Albert Lees III and George Oliveira, CFSEMA board members; Kate Carney from the Patrick Carney Foundation; Lorraine Khazan from PACE; and Mary Schwartz (Lewin only), who was a member of the Lewin Scholarship Foundation when it merged with the Community Foundation.