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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Four New Bedford Seniors Awarded Jacobs Scholarships
More than \$100,000 Presented to NBHS, Global Charter School Students

May 23, 2008 - Three New Bedford High School and one New Bedford Global Learning Charter School graduating seniors have been awarded four-year scholarships to study math, science or engineering at a college or university, thanks to the Jacobs Family New Bedford High School Scholarship, a fund of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts.

City native and QUALCOMM founder Dr. Irwin Jacobs and his wife, Joan Klein Jacobs, flew in from their home in La Jolla, Calif., this week to present more than \$100,000 in scholarships at the New Bedford Whaling Museum to **NBHS seniors Jillian DeMedeiros, Allen Mills and Vijayalakshmi Parthasarathy and Charter School senior Shakeela Najjar**. Each will receive a \$28,000 scholarship, to be distributed over four years.

The Jacobs Family New Bedford High School Scholarship Fund was established by the Jacobs in 2000 with a \$1 million gift to the Community Foundation (CFSEMA). In 2005, thanks to an additional \$800,000 donation by the Jacobs, the Foundation was able to increase the size and number of scholarships from two \$20,000 scholarships to three \$24,000 awards. This year, a fourth scholarship was added for a Global Charter School senior and each was increased to \$28,000.

“As college tuitions skyrocket, we are thrilled to be able to help these very accomplished students achieve their goals and dreams,” said CFSEMA President Craig J. Dutra. “We are grateful to the Jacobs for making this possible, and we join them in looking forward to great things from these very talented students.”

Guest speakers at the May 23 presentation included Dr. Jacobs, CFSEMA Chair Thomas F. Lyons and President Craig J. Dutra, New Bedford High School Headmaster Donald Vasconcelles, New Bedford Public Schools Superintendent Michael Longo, Global Learning Charter School Principal Jim Cobbs, PhD, Mayor Scott Lang, and the scholarship recipients themselves.

Earlier on Friday, Dr. and Mrs. Jacobs visited the Global Learning Charter High School’s new facility on Ashley Boulevard, and participated in a ribbon cutting to

open the school's new computer lab. On Saturday, they planned to fly a group of students from the Carlos Pacheco Elementary School, Dr. Jacobs' alma mater, to Nantucket in their private jet.

Scholarships were awarded to the four students below:

- ✓ **Jillian DeMedeiros**, the daughter of Artur DeMedeiros and Gabriela DeMedeiros, is graduating 12th in her NBHS class of 582 students. She is a member of the National Honor Society, the Senior Steering Committee, the Key Club, the National Society of High School Scholars and the National and Faculty Honor Rolls. She is also a hospital volunteer. Jillian plans to study Pharmacy at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.
- ✓ **Allen Mills** is the son of Allen and Kimberly Mills. Allen is graduating 5th in his class, maintaining that rank while participating in sports and a variety of musical groups throughout high school. Allen's passion for playing guitar has led him to learn several different musical styles and to play in the NBHS Jazz Band, along with two local bands. He is a member of the National Honor Society and the National Society of High School Scholars. Allen plans to study Engineering at Northeastern University.
- ✓ **Vijayalakshmi Parthasarathy** is the Valedictorian of the NBHS Class of 2008. The daughter of Chennakesavelli and Rateswari Parthasarathy, Lakshmi plans to study math and physics at Harvard University in the fall. Throughout high school, she has participated in the NBHS Soccer, Winter Track and Spring Track Teams, the Key Club, and the Debate Team. Lakshmi is a member of the National Honor Society, and has received the Harvard Book Award, the Athletic Scholar Award, the AP Scholar Award, and the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship. She is a CVS Pharmacy Associate.
- ✓ **Shakeela Najjar** is graduating from the Global Learning Charter School with a 3.98 GPA, and plans to study Biology at Boston University on a pre-med track to become an obstetrician. Born in Bangladesh to Isa Najjar and Hajera Khan, her career choice was influenced by her visit last summer to her native country and to the maternity clinic where she was born. Shakeela has been the Student Council President for the past two years, and has been a school representative to the Youth Summit Program and the Southeastern Mass. Student Advisory Council. She has received academic awards in Spanish, Chemistry, Math and for Overall Academic Achievement.

A 1950 New Bedford High School graduate, Dr. Jacobs received a Bachelor of Engineering degree from Cornell University and a master's and Sc.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering from MIT. In 1985, he co-founded the California-based

wireless communications Fortune 500 Company QUALCOMM, Inc., and has served as Chairman and CEO. Joan Klein Jacobs is a New York City native who has become a leader in the San Diego community since moving to La Jolla in 1996. She has played a vital role in her contributions to the San Diego arts community.

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 more than \$18.5 million and has distributed over \$6 million from 110 funds to humanitarian, educational and cultural organizations in the region.

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