



The Virginia Foundation

FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATION

Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship Program

The Need: Access for the Best and the Brightest

The Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship Program was inaugurated in 2006 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Virginia Community College System (VCCS). Its purpose is to provide access to higher education for bright, hard-working young men and women who would otherwise have this door forever shut to them. These merit-based scholarships are designed to be enduring legacies that will make the community college experience available to generations of deserving students.

Not all intelligent and talented Virginians who dream of a college education have the means. But the mission of the Virginia Community College System is to convince them that the goal is within reach. As Dr. Glenn DuBois, Chancellor of the VCCS has stated, "The long term goal is to expand the intellectual highways of Virginia. Our workforce, our economy, and our quality of life depend on it." If we broaden access for the best and the brightest, the future of all Virginians is stronger and more vibrant.

The Opportunity: Commonwealth Legacy Scholars – A Select Group of Students

The Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship Program awards scholarships to *first-time students* attending one of Virginia's 23 community colleges. The scholarship provides up to \$3,000 for a full-year of tuition, books, and fees at any of the 40 campuses of the 23 colleges in the system. To be competitive for the scholarship, graduating high school seniors must exhibit academic excellence, effective leadership, mentoring skills, and the potential to become ambassadors for community college education.

The program recognizes students who not only excel academically but also show interest in challenging themselves and helping others succeed. Each class of scholars mentors the next class of recipients and creates a steady stream of scholars and mentors—a legacy of community college graduates.

The Vision: Investing Today in Tomorrow's Achievement

The concept of creating a legacy is the inspiration of the Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship Program. The students who are helped today will not only benefit from personal, academic, professional, and leadership opportunities but, equally importantly, will contribute to the future growth of others. An investment in the best students of today will return great rewards tomorrow. They will invigorate the academic and social climate of our community colleges across the Commonwealth. They will provide energy in the classroom, stimulate excellence in our faculty, inspire their classmates, and mentor those scholars who follow. They will graduate, become successful citizens, help grow our economy, and assume leadership roles in our communities. The Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship Program is truly an investment in the future of all Virginians.