

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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-PRESS RELEASE-

New Haven Promise Scholarship Amount Triples in Second Year

Number of scholarship recipients jump and retention rates rise due to new policy

(NEW HAVEN) — New Haven Promise will send \$323,807, more than triple the amount in 2011, in checks to 17 colleges and universities across the state this school year for 220 Promise scholars.

Promise scholars from the high school graduating Class of 2011 continue to receive up to 25 percent of the scholarship and incoming college freshmen from the Class of 2012 receive up to 50 percent of the scholarship. Students who graduate from high school in 2013 will receive up to 75 percent; the Class of 2014 will be the first to receive the full 100 percent.

As the number of Promise scholars in college grows and the program matures, Promise will begin to develop policies, programs and partnerships to support scholars. The goal is to help students get into and through college and return to live and work in the city of New Haven.

To that end, after reviewing Connecticut State University academic standards and best practices at similar merit- and site-based scholarship programs, the Promise Board of Directors voted to change the GPA requirement for college freshmen from a 2.5 to a 2.0 GPA, effective immediately. The new GPA policy means that an additional 17 students, who have maintained good academic standing at their respective colleges, will continue to receive their Promise scholarship. Scholars will be required to meet the 2.5 GPA in subsequent years to qualify for renewal.

"The change in GPA requirements for college freshmen recognizes the fact that the transition to college life can be challenging, both socially and academically," said SCSU President Mary A. Papazian and Promise Board member. "At Southern, we are constantly enhancing our support systems for new students and we have taken extra steps to provide mentoring, advisement and practical assistance that will help give Promise scholars every opportunity to succeed."

A total of 88 students from the Class of 2011 will use a Promise scholarship this school year.

"This renewed commitment to offer access to higher education is a reassurance to our young people that, if they work hard and stay committed and dependable, then opportunities to maximize their full potential are inevitable," said Dr. Dorsey Kendrick, President of Gateway Community College and Promise Board member.

"The freshmen transition year is the most critical time in a college student's career, and looking at more experienced scholarship programs we realized we needed to renew our policies to be aligned with best practices," said Patricia Melton, Executive Director of New Haven Promise.

New Haven Promise: Scholarship is funded by Yale University. New Haven Promise: Partnership is funded by Yale-New Haven Hospital and Wells Fargo. New Haven Promise is a component fund and program of The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven.

Promise Directors include: Yale University President Richard Levin (Chair), John DeStefano, Jr., Mayor of New Haven, and William W. Ginsberg, President and CEO of The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, Dr. Dorsey Kendrick, President of Gateway Community College and Southern Connecticut State University President Dr. Mary Papazian.

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