

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 19, 2009

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



County Council Acknowledges MCPS Educational Foundation's 20th Anniversary

Council Proclaims Oct 13, 2009 as MCPS Educational Foundation Day and Makes Note of Successful Scholarship Program for County Students

Media Contact:

Elizabeth Johnson

Frost Miller Group.

301-718-8512 EXT. 23

jenten@frostmiller.com

Rockville, MD – The Montgomery County Council issued an official Proclamation designating October 13 as MCPS Educational Foundation Day. At the Council meeting on October 13, representatives of the MCPS Educational Foundation Board were present to accept the Council's Proclamation. The proclamation was introduced and sponsored by Council Member Nancy Navarro.

Speaking to the Council, MCPS Educational Foundation Chairman Jon Enten made note of the growth and success of the Foundation's efforts which include the awarding of over 115 scholarships to low income Montgomery County students this year. Additionally Enten made note of the grant programs the Foundation awards to teachers and students for special projects. With the help of Montgomery County state legislators, the MCPS Educational Foundation, Inc. awarded over \$275,000 in scholarships for FY 2010 to MCPS graduates as well as students in their second year of college

Esther Gelman, Organizing Chair of the Foundation, former County Council Chair, and current Chair of the Foundation Scholarship Committee noted the importance of the scholarship program. "These scholarships can make the difference in a student's life, allowing them to choose career options that otherwise wouldn't be available. "

For twenty years, the MCPS Educational Foundation has been helping County students with partial and full scholarships. The majority of the scholarships are for students who attend Montgomery College. Some students have received funding for other state universities and colleges including The University of Maryland College Park, Baltimore County, and Eastern Shore.

- MORE -

The Foundation's Scholarship program got its start as a result of a fundraising event honoring Dr. Paul Vance, former superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools at his retirement. The Program allows academically successful but financially needy graduating students an opportunity to have an education that will provide them a future and a career.

The MCPS Educational Foundation also awards scholarships on behalf of a number of private family foundations including the Sniper Victim Fund that was established in 2003. A number of scholarship winners have gone on to earn degrees from four-year institutions and enter graduate school.

To qualify for an Educational Foundation scholarship, students must graduate from Montgomery County high school and must show financial need. Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded over 1 million dollars in scholarships in addition to over \$900,000 in grants.

The Montgomery County Public Schools Educational Foundation also provides funds for special and innovative MCPS programs that the annual school budget cannot support including technology grants, funding for special equipment, and programs for at-risk students. Montgomery County Public Schools serves more than 140,000 students in 200 school buildings, making it the largest school system in Maryland and the 16th largest school system in the nation.

ABOUT MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

The Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Educational Foundation, Inc. is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization that receives funds from charitable foundations, government granting agencies, cooperative business, estates of deceased persons, and helpful citizens. With those funds, the Foundation carefully awards scholarships for graduating seniors and funds to MCPS staff for projects designed to support their programs. You can learn more about the foundation at www.mcpsfoundation.org.

#####