



Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts

1500 Main Street Springfield, MA 01103 telephone (413) 732-2858 fax (413) 733-8565

For Immediate Release

March 2, 2006

Contact: Dawn Lapierre, Education Officer (413)732-2858

dlapierre@communityfoundation.org

\$1.8 MILLION IN HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

The Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts will award more than \$1.8 million in scholarships and interest-free loans available to local students planning to pursue college at the undergraduate and graduate levels for the 2006-2007 academic year. Carol Leary, President of the Community Foundation noted, "For many students in our region, this scholarship program provides the access to higher education."

The Community Foundation anticipates awarding scholarships and loans to hundreds of traditional and non-traditional students in the region from 94 higher education funds administered by the Community Foundation. Scholarships range from approximately \$500 to \$8,000, and students may apply for no interest loans of up to \$3,000.

Residents of western Massachusetts, and Hartford County, Connecticut, are eligible to apply for scholarship assistance. Residents throughout Massachusetts are also eligible for consideration for the interest-free James W. Colgan Loan provided they have lived in the Commonwealth for a minimum of five years.

The online application is available at www.communityfoundation.org. Applications and all supporting materials must be submitted by March 31, 2006.

The Community Foundation works closely with Bank of America on select funds, administers the MassMutual Scholars Program fund along with 93 additional education funds. The Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts is committed to supporting the charitable work in our region by providing the vital connection between donors and organizations in Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin counties. For more information about the Community Foundation, please call (413) 732-2858 or visit www.communityfoundation.org

###