



Because College Doesn't Happen by Chance.®

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**Two Maryland Universities Receive \$50,000 from Wal-Mart
Foundation to Implement Scholarship America's® Dreamkeepers
Emergency Financial Assistance Program**

*University of Maryland and Prince George's Community College among colleges to
participate in national initiative*

WASHINGTON, D.C., (July 29, 2008) – Scholarship America® today announced that the University of Maryland and Prince George's Community College will each receive \$50,000 to execute its Dreamkeepers Emergency Financial Assistance program. The grant provided by the Wal-Mart Foundation will address the high dropout rates of college students when faced with an unexpected crisis, such as medical expenses, job loss and other emergencies.

The financial contribution from this program will help increase the graduation rate at the University of Maryland and Prince George's Community College by providing emergency assistance to students who otherwise may be forced to drop out of school. Since its inception, the Dreamkeepers program has increased the retention rate of participating colleges to an average of 85 percent.

“We are pleased to announce that the Dreamkeepers program has or will be introduced at seven additional universities and community colleges across the country, including the University of Maryland and Prince George's Community College,” said Dr. Clifford L. Stanley, president and CEO of Scholarship America. “Our program has delivered drastic results that have provided positive life-changing outcomes nationwide.”

A team of Scholarship America representatives will provide on-site support and training to help the college determine applicant guidelines, how to create awareness and develop best practices to raise additional funds for the program.

The University of Maryland and Prince George's Community College are among seven schools recently selected to take part in the national program. The colleges were chosen because they enroll large numbers of low-income students and students of color – groups with high rates of attrition that have traditionally been underserved by the education system.

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“This investment in the lives of our students will ensure that the doors of possibility remain open for those facing financial set-back,” said Brenda Mitchell, director of Prince George’s Community College Foundation. “We feel that this partnership will help student dreams of academic success become a reality.”

“We are thrilled that Scholarship America has chosen the University of Maryland to implement such a significant program,” said Sarah Bauder, director of student financial aid at the University of Maryland. “Ensuring that all students have the opportunity to gain a high-quality education is a top priority at Maryland and the Dreamkeepers Emergency Financial Assistance Program is a wonderful alternative we can offer our students who are faced with sudden crises.”

Developed in 2005 with support from Lumina Foundation for Education, the Dreamkeepers program provides students with emergency funding to allow them to remain in school and obtain a post-secondary education. Earlier this year, the Wal-Mart Foundation provided \$500,000 to expand the program to additional community colleges across the country.

"Wal-Mart is making a significant commitment to educational access," said Wal-Mart Foundation president, Margaret McKenna. "We believe that our support will help many determined students overcome obstacles to completing their education."

Scholarship America currently administers the program at 11 universities and community colleges throughout the country. In its first two years, the program provided nearly \$595,393 to 1,566 students – easing student worries about housing, food, utilities, tuition, books, transportation, child care and medical needs. The result was a significant impact on attrition rates. In 2005, 64 percent of students re-enrolled or graduated after receiving assistance. In 2006, retention rates went up to 85 percent at participating schools, with three colleges reporting retention of 90 percent or higher.

About Scholarship America®

Scholarship America is one of the nation’s largest nonprofit, private-sector scholarship and educational support organizations. Its three primary programs — Dollars for Scholars®, Scholarship Management Services® and ScholarShop® — are united in the mission to expand access to education. Scholarship America (www.scholarshipamerica.org) has awarded nearly \$2 billion to more than 1.5 million students since its founding in 1958, and is rated a 5-star charity by Charity Navigator.

About Philanthropy at Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (NYSE: WMT) and its Foundation are proud to support the charitable causes that are important to customers and associates in their own neighborhoods. Through its philanthropic programs and partnerships, the Company supports initiatives focused on enhancing opportunities in education, health and human services, sustainability and job skills training. In 2007, Wal-Mart, Sam’s Club and the Wal-Mart Foundation gave \$296 million to communities across the United States. To learn more, visit www.walmartstores.com/community.

About Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (NYSE: WMT)

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. operates Wal-Mart discount stores, Supercenters, Neighborhood Markets and Sam’s Club locations in the United States. The Company operates in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Japan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico and the United Kingdom. Wal-Mart serves more than 176 million customers weekly in 14 markets. The Company’s securities are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol WMT. For more information: www.walmartfacts.com.