



Because College Doesn't Happen by Chance.®

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Moraine Valley Community College Receives \$50,000 from Wal-Mart Foundation to Implement Scholarship America's® Dreamkeepers Emergency Financial Assistance Program

National initiative addresses high dropout rates among community college students

PALOS HILLS, Ill. (July 30, 2008) - Scholarship America today announced that Moraine Valley Community College will receive a grant of \$50,000 from the Wal-Mart Foundation. The grant will allow Moraine Valley Community College to execute a Dreamkeepers Emergency Financial Assistance program.

Part of a \$500,000 grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation to Scholarship America, the program is being piloted at Moraine Valley Community College and other community colleges and universities around the country to address the high dropout rates of college students when faced with an unexpected crisis, such as medical expenses, job loss and other financial emergencies. Since its inception, the Dreamkeepers program has increased the retention rate of participating colleges to an average of 85 percent.

"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."

"We are pleased to announce that, through support from the Wal-Mart Foundation, the Dreamkeepers program will be introduced at seven additional community colleges across the country, including Moraine Valley," 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 Moraine Valley determine applicant guidelines, how to create awareness, and develop best practices to raise additional funds for the program.

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.

“Moraine Valley’s ultimate goal is to do whatever we can to help every one of our students reach their goals, and sometimes that means assisting them with personal problems outside of academia,” said Joann Wright, dean of Counseling and Advising at Moraine Valley Community College. “This grant is significant for us because it gives us the opportunity to ensure our students have the resources they need to stay in school and get a quality education, particularly when a financial issue arises that makes it hard to put their education first.”

Scholarship America currently administers the program at 11 community colleges. 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.

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