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## **Student winners at State Fair Now Eligible for Endowed Scholarships State Fair Competition Winners Eligible to Apply for nearly \$20k in More Scholarship Funds**

Doswell, Va. (March 22, 2010) – An additional \$19,500 in scholarship funds are up for grabs through the State Fair of Virginia Scholarship Program in 2010. These funds are in addition to the over \$70,000 offered annually through student achievement in 33 competition areas at the State Fair. High school students who have earned a scholarship in State Fair competitions ranging from dairy cattle and horticulture to fine arts and automotive repair are now eligible to apply for endowed scholarships.

“We are thrilled to be able to offer more scholarship money than last year, especially as students and families see the cost of higher education continue to rise,” says Shelly Poole, member of SFVA’s Board of Directors and Scholarship Committee Chair. “We are lucky to have such a qualified and motivated pool of applicants and look forward to seeing their applications.”

Despite the economy, over \$20,000 was added to the available competition scholarships at the 2009 State Fair. With SFVA’s move to The Meadow Event Park with its rich equine heritage, new scholarships in the 4-H equine department were added. Existing competition areas with large number of participants were given added monies.

While the State Fair’s roots lay in agriculture, the Scholarship Program is meant to support youth and education across a broad range of interests. Students do not have to study agriculture or attend an in-state school; once students are enrolled in any accredited post-secondary educational institution, funds are sent directly to the school. State Fair scholarships have been used everywhere from Harvard to the Diesel Institute of America.

Additional funds are earned annually by students in the School of the Arts at Virginia Commonwealth University, as well the College of Agriculture at Virginia Tech and the School of Agriculture at Virginia State University. These institutions are strong partners with SFVA, providing educational exhibits and staff during the State Fair.

How to Apply for Endowed Scholarships:

1. Visit <http://statefair.com/scholarships> for more information, complete eligibility criteria & to download an application.
2. Submit a completed application by April 15, 2010.

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