



*Investing in Ventura County.
For Good. For Ever.*



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**Medical Education Forgivable Loans Available
Through the Ventura County Community Foundation**

(CAMARILLO, CA – September 19, 2005) — The Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF) is seeking applicants for medical education forgivable loans that will be given to individuals enrolled in a nursing program and who promise to practice in Ventura County for a minimum of two years upon completion of their studies.

The Foundation's new *Medical Education Fund* will provide \$2,000 forgivable loans to students at an accredited institution in Ventura County enrolled in a two-year program for an associate's degree of nursing or to students from Ventura County pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing in a four-year program at an accredited institution anywhere in Southern California. In order to be considered for this award, candidates must have a minimum 2.5 GPA, demonstrate financial need, and submit all required materials to the Foundation by October 28. Scholarship applications are available at www.vccf.org.

Eligible expenditures of the funds include tuition, books, supplies, transportation, child or elder care, and housing expenses. Applicants must submit a budget listing expense categories and dollar amounts for each category along with the application form.

“Investing in students and helping them achieve their dreams is one of the best ways to assure a bright future for Ventura County,” said Hugh Ralston, president of VCCF. “We are delighted, in partnership with the County of Ventura, to be able to expand our financial resources to include this innovative program to expand the supply of nurses serving Ventura County. As an endowed fund, we will be able to do this every single year.

(More)

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The new *Medical Education Fund*, established earlier this year to increase the number of qualified medical and healthcare workers in Ventura County, was made possible by a distribution of Tobacco Settlement Funds authorized by the Board of Supervisors. At this time, the Fund is concentrating on helping increase the number of qualified nurses in the county, building on current VCCF nursing scholarship programs. Loan recipients will sign an agreement pledging to work as a nurse in Ventura County for at least two years following the completion of his or her studies, at which point the loan will be forgiven. If the student does not work as a nurse in the county, the loan must be repaid in full.

Created in 1987 the Ventura County Community Foundation is a family of charitable funds whose combined assets now exceed \$70 million. Grants made in 2005 are projected at over \$4 million, including over \$600,000 in scholarships to Ventura County students. The Foundation's mission is to promote and enable philanthropy to improve our community for good and for ever. It does this by being a careful steward of funds entrusted to it, a long-term partner dedicated to donor intent, a thoughtful grantmaker focusing on the needs of the community and nonprofits, and a community leader and convener working for the common good. For more information, visit www.vccf.org.

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