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**VCCF INTRODUCES ONLINE REGISTRATION
FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS**

Jan. 5 is deadline to register on vccf.org

CAMARILLO, Calif. (Dec. 23, 2009) – The Ventura County Community Foundation has introduced for 2010 an online process for students seeking scholarships through the community foundation.

Scholarship applicants now are required to register on the Scholarships Registration page of vccf.org. After completing a short online application form, they will receive a registration/ID number, which must be included on the application paperwork.

Jan. 5 is the online registration deadline.

A recent major upgrade of VCCF's Web site also provides applicants with online tools that streamline the process. Among these is a feature that assists students in avoiding the wasted effort of applying for scholarships for which they are ineligible.

“In the past, the No. 1 reason students lose out on scholarships is they do not meet the criteria for the award,” said Virginia Weber, program officer.

Weber points out many scholarships at VCCF are established by donors to assist a student in a specific field of study — such as math, nursing or agriculture. Other awards are designated for students from a particular background — such as children of — agriculture workers or the first in their families to attend college.

The new online Scholarship Eligibility Questionnaire on vccf.org leads applicants through a series of questions. After students have answered all the prompts, they will see on the screen a list of the scholarships they may be eligible for. —

Because of the variety of scholarships offered at VCCF, the questionnaire is not all encompassing, according to Weber. Students also can download the 2010 Scholarship Guidelines, which describe the opportunities along with the specific qualifications for each award. They are permitted to apply for five scholarships each year.

Students have until 5 p.m. Jan. 8 to deliver their hard-copy application packets to VCCF offices, 1317 Del Norte Road, Suite 150, Camarillo, CA 93010.

VCCF is the largest provider of scholarships to Ventura County students, having awarded \$5 million in student aid since its founding in 1987. Last year, the community foundation granted more than \$1.3 million in scholarships. More than 3,000 Ventura County students applied for aid at VCCF in 2009.

VCCF is a family of charitable funds with combined assets of \$95.7 million. Its mission is to promote and enable philanthropy to improve our community for good for ever, which it does through grantmaking, scholarships and leadership training programs through the Center for Nonprofit Leadership. VCCF has been certified in compliance with national standards by the Council on Foundations, the highest form of peer review in the United States. For more information, please visit vccf.org or contact VCCF at (805) 988-0196.



