



News Release

DeKalb County School System
Office of Media & Public Relations
3770 North Decatur Road
Decatur, Georgia 30032-1099

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Contact:
Stephanie Johnson
(678) 676-0460

Scholarship Foundation Announces “Certified Simon Scholar High Schools”



Ronald Simon Family Foundation Administrators pictured with principals from the four Certified Simon Scholar High Schools (seated, l to r) Dr. Weschsler, Dr. Turk, Dr. Abels, Harriet Byrom (standing, l to r) Yolanda Peek, Assistant Principal at Redan High; Principal John Prince, Southwest DeKalb High; Principal Rochelle Lowery, Chamblee High; and Principal Everett Patrick, Druid Hills High.

The Ronald Simon Family Foundation recently announced a unique partnership with DeKalb County School System to institute **Certified Simon Scholar High Schools**. With a five-year union already established that has yielded more than \$1 million in scholarship funds for students at nearly all of DeKalb's high schools, the family foundation is now moving to offer its generous scholarship package exclusively to students who attend **Chamblee Charter, Druid Hills, Redan** and **Southwest DeKalb High Schools**.

On December 9, 2008, the foundation announced their selection of Certified Simon Scholar High Schools—chosen because of their successful academic program and/or their proven record of success with implementing the Simon Scholar program in previous years. Additionally, each school has a cross-section of students who are in need of the benefits of the program.

Through the Certified Simon Scholar High Schools program, the Ronald Simon Family Foundation will annually select scholars from each school's sophomore class and offer them intensive support during their last two years in high school. Additionally, each selected Simon Scholar will receive a laptop computer, \$500 annual award, SAT prep, leadership training, and academic tutoring.

Upon successful completion of the high school program, the Simon Scholars will each be rewarded a \$16,000 scholarship, payable directly to the academic institution. Each year, up to 20 scholarships will be awarded across the four certified Simon Scholar High Schools.

The Ronald Simon Family Foundation scholarship was established to support economically disadvantaged students achieve their academic goal of attending college. In order to qualify for the foundation's program, students must be hard-working (with at least a 2.5 GPA), self-motivated, and involved in community service. Also, to maintain the scholarship, students must achieve a 3.0 GPA or better by the second semester of their 11th grade year.

Originating in Orange County, Calif., the scholarship foundation also honors students in Santa Fe, N.M., Santa Ana, Calif.; and San Diego County, Calif.

Since the foundation's inception in 2004, their program has helped 300 students across the nation including 73 students in DeKalb County. The Ronald M. Simon Family Foundation hopes to one day begin awarding 1,000 national scholarships per year.

The Ronald Simon Family Foundation's Atlanta branch is administered by Dr. Kathy Simon Abels, Executive Director; Dr. Catherine Turk, Program Coordinator, Dr. Ellen Weschsler, Program Administrator, and Harriet Byrom, Program Counselor.

Applications will be available in each high school's Counseling office beginning January 6, 2009. Applications can also be downloaded at www.rmsff.org

The DeKalb County School System [DCSS] is a metropolitan Atlanta public school system located in the second largest county in Georgia. DeKalb, one of the most culturally diverse counties in the nation, has a student enrollment of approximately 100,000 students in 153 schools and centers. All DeKalb schools are dedicated to giving every student the best possible education through an intensive core curriculum and specialized, challenging instructional and career programs.

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