

PRESS RELEASE

PATRICK COUNTY EDUCATION FOUNDATION AND SHENANDOAH UNIVERSITY TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO COUNTY STUDENTS

Shenandoah University, in partnership with the Patrick County Education Foundation, has announced that it will offer five scholarships per year, ranging in value up to \$6,000 each, to Patrick County High School graduates. The scholarships are based upon academic and/or talent achievement. Shenandoah University is located in Winchester, Virginia, and has an enrollment of 2,500 and offers 60 programs of study at the undergraduate, graduate, doctorate, and professional levels.

Foundation Chairman and former Virginia Governor, Gerald Baliles, expressed his delight in Shenandoah University's commitment to Patrick County and the goals of the Foundation, "I believe that by combining the Shenandoah University scholarships, existing financial assistance sources, and the Foundation's need-based scholarships, we will be able to make a college education possible for many more residents per year."

Shenandoah University President, Dr. James A. Davis stated, "The University is incredibly pleased to be a participant in the realization of the noble goals of the Foundation and its significant impact on the future of Patrick County."

"The addition of such a great and reputable institution as Shenandoah University as a major partner in our College Access Program is an exciting and significant milestone," stated Foundation Executive Director, Jerry Hughes.

Baliles stated, "Shenandoah University's commitment will further the Foundation's mission of moving Patrick County from near the bottom to the top five rural counties in adult education attainment within ten years, thereby enhancing the County's future economic prospects.

The College Access Program is one measure in a three-pronged Foundation approach to elevate the County's economic outlook and to explore new economic opportunities. The Foundation's objectives include creating access to higher education and instructing families about college, financial aid, and affordability. Program Director, Sandra Dales, has announced that over \$450,000 in financial aid has been identified and over \$17,000 in need-based scholarships has been awarded in the first year. The Shenandoah University scholarship program, when combined with the previously announced Ferrum College scholarships, provides \$80,000 in new scholarships opportunities for Patrick County students.

In addition to the College Access Program, the Foundation recently announced an initiative to increase the number of adult residents receiving a GED through the Patrick County Public Schools' Adult Education Program. The Foundation also plans to make an announcement in January to address its third objective, a workforce initiative designed to address Patrick County worker training needs.

For more information about the Patrick County Education Foundation or its programs and services, please call Jerry Hughes, Executive Director, at (276) 694-6542