

# Press Release

Contact: Diane Edwards  
Phone: (276) 694-7233

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
5 PM EDT, September 13, 2005

## **SunTrust Bank Completes 4-Year, \$20,000 Pledge to the Patrick County Education Foundation**

The Patrick County Education Foundation has announced receipt of the final \$5,000 payment in a 4-year \$20,000 pledge made to the Foundation by SunTrust Banks, Inc. That pledge, made in March 2002, was intended to assist with the Foundation's projected 3-year start-up phase. The SunTrust commitment was one of several corporate and private foundation pledges that were instrumental in providing the funding needed to establish the Foundation and launch its first programs.

The Patrick County Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created as an economic development initiative to raise education attainment levels of the Patrick County workforce so that the County can attract new businesses and better jobs to the area. Since its founding in late 2001, the Foundation has implemented a "3-legged stool" approach to workforce education to help high school graduates go to college, encourage adults without a high school diploma to complete their GED, and provide job-skills training to County adults. Thus far, the Foundation has directly assisted over 1,000 Patrick County residents and invested more than \$822,000 in programs and services to raise County education levels.

“We consider SunTrust to be an important corporate partner,” said the Foundation’s Director of Development Diane Edwards. “When we approached them in early 2002, this Foundation was new. It had been in existence only since late 2001. There was one staff member and its first program, the College Access Program, had just begun at Patrick County High School. Even at that early stage, the SunTrust leadership saw the promise the Foundation held for changing Patrick County and for creating an education-driven economic development model for other rural counties like Patrick. SunTrust’s investment in that promise and in the Foundation’s mission was critical to our early success and to our future. We’re extremely proud of this relationship and deeply appreciative of their support and their role in building a stronger Patrick.”

SunTrust Banks, Inc., (NYSE: STI) headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, is one of the nation's largest commercial banking organizations. As of June 30, 2005, SunTrust had total assets of \$169.0 billion and total deposits of \$109.6 billion. The Company operates an extensive branch and ATM network throughout the high-growth Southeast and Mid-Atlantic states and a full array of technology-based, 24-hour delivery channels. The Company also serves customers in selected markets nationally. Its primary businesses include deposit, credit, trust and investment services. Through various subsidiaries the company provides credit cards, mortgage banking, insurance, brokerage and capital markets services. SunTrust's Internet address is [suntrust.com](http://suntrust.com).

### End ###