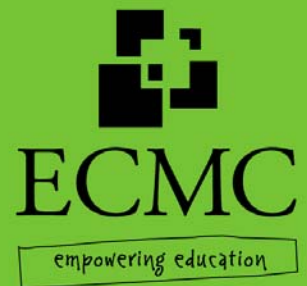


# Newsbreak



January 28, 2009

## ECMC Foundation Increases Pledge to \$1.86 Million in Higher Education Scholarships to Oregon Students

Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC), as designated guarantor for the state of Oregon, is pleased to announce ECMC Foundation's pledge to increase scholarship funding for Oregon high school students through the ECMC Scholars Program. The increased funding extends the scholarship program through the high school graduating class of 2011.

In 2006, ECMC Foundation and the Oregon Department of Education joined in partnership to create the Oregon ECMC Scholars Program to increase participation in postsecondary education by economically or otherwise disadvantaged students.

Eight Oregon high schools were chosen to participate in the program according to need-based criteria. Each participating high school forms its own committee made up of teachers, guidance counselors and other educators to select their own ECMC Scholars candidates. Committees are encouraged to look past grades and test scores that may not reflect a student's true potential, and instead choose the students they feel will most benefit from additional mentoring and early involvement in a scholarship program.

Scholarship candidates are selected as sophomores and, through the ECMC Scholars Program, are challenged to better prepare for college during their junior and senior years of high school. Since the program's inception, a total of 310 Oregon high school students have earned or are eligible to earn up to \$6,000 each in scholarships.

"The ECMC Scholars Program is a wonderful opportunity for students. The scholarships are changing lives as they help students realize they can successfully work toward going to college," said Susan Castillo, Oregon State Superintendent of Public Instruction. "I want to thank ECMC Foundation for their vision and financial support."

### **A Note about ECMC Foundation**

ECMC Foundation, an ECMC Group company, helps low-income, first-generation, college-going students further their educational goals. Through innovative outreach programs, we convey to students the importance of completing high school, and continue our mission by developing and distributing programs that focus on college access, retention and success. To learn more, visit [www.ecmcfoundation.org](http://www.ecmcfoundation.org).

### **About ECMC**

Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC), a nonprofit member of ECMC Group, is a national guaranty agency that insures loans under the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP). Through customer-focused services and flexible products, ECMC works with schools, lenders and loan servicers to find solutions that best meet the needs of students.