

EDUCATION FOR ALL

HOPKINSVILLE ROTARY CLUB PRESIDENT
RUSS GUFFEY . . .

"The Hopkinsville Rotary Club has always stood on the pillars of youth and education. For more than a half a century our club - with the help of the community - has reacted to the needs of our students. The Rotary Scholars Program, however, is a proactive initiative our club has established to help raise the community's college going rate, educational attainment, and job preparedness. And best of all, this program offers a level playing field for every student."



CHRISTIAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER
DARYLL LYNCH . . .

"The creation of a college scholarship program that is accessible to all Christian County high school students is groundbreaking. No longer will financial barriers stand in the way of local students pursuing higher education and paving their way to a brighter future and a better life for themselves and their families. This scholarship program helps reinforce the value of staying in school, acting appropriately and excelling academically - all three of which are critical to our students' long-term success."

HOPKINSVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT
DR. JAMES SELBE . . .

"We know the long-term impact of educational attainment on a person's lifetime earning potential. By providing this scholarship, Rotary and its supporters have outlined a bold public-private partnership. This community and every student here will be the beneficiaries for years to come. Due to Rotary's commitment to education, dramatic transformations in our community and its citizens will now be transpiring that previously could only have been classified as a dream."

INFORMATION

For questions and details,
or to make a donation to the
Rotary Scholars Program
contact

- ♦ Rotary Office - 270-886-3034
- ♦ rotary@hopkinsvillerotary.com
- ♦ www.hopkinsvillerotary.org



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April 21 - 26, 2008
WKAG-TV 43
WHOP AM 1230
Live Stream - Lite987whop.com



HOPKINSVILLE ROTARY SCHOLARS PROGRAM



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ROTARY SCHOLARS Q & A

The program will go into effect with the high school graduating classes of 2012 (8th graders this year).

Eligibility for obtaining a *Rotary Scholars Program* award is described as follows:

Who will be eligible?

- ◆ Regardless of a student's county of residence, any student who graduates from Christian County High School, Hopkinsville High School, Heritage Christian Academy or University Heights Academy, and meets the stated requirements, will be eligible.



What are the eligibility criteria?

- ◆ The 8th grade student and their legal guardian must attend a Hopkinsville *Rotary Scholars Program* Information and Enrollment meeting. The schedule for these meetings will be forthcoming.

Other eligibility criteria:

- ◆ While in high school, each student must enroll in and successfully complete a tuition-waived *Orientation to College* course at Hopkinsville Community College.
- ◆ The student must graduate with a cumulative high school GPA of 2.5 or higher.
- ◆ The student must achieve a cumulative high school attendance of 95% or above.
- ◆ The student must never have been expelled from high school.
- ◆ The student and their guardian must complete an application for federal financial aid.



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ROTARY SCHOLARS Q & A

- ◆ The student must enroll full-time at Hopkinsville Community College immediately after high school and maintain standards for Satisfactory Academic Progress as described by the U.S. Department of Education.

What is the amount of aid possible?

- ◆ Students who meet the aforementioned criteria will be eligible to receive a scholarship up to the full amount required to pay for college tuition. The full-tuition scholarship will be good for four consecutive semesters. Federal PELL scholarships and Kentucky KEES scholarships will be applied prior to the *Rotary Scholars* award, which will be applied as a “last aid.”



Is the *Rotary Scholars* award a grant or a loan?

- ◆ This will be a grant/scholarship. There will not be an expectation of re-payment.

How did the *Rotary Scholars Program* come about?

- ◆ For several years there has been an increased emphasis inside Rotary to try to reach the young people who wanted to attend college, but could not (or did not know how to) qualify for a Rotary loan. This is what led to the implementation of our current scholarship program. The feeling was that the scholarships helped, but still did not reach every student . . . thus the creation of the *Rotary Scholars Program*. By forming a Steering Committee and studying similar programs that exist in other American cities, the Hopkinsville Rotary Club was able to create a program that can reach every local student. Now all of our young people will have the opportunity to pursue their post-secondary dreams.

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ROTARY SCHOLARS Q & A

Why is the program important to HCC and local students?

- ◆ Studies show that the higher the level of educational attainment a student reaches, the more money they will make over their lifetime. Studies also show that a higher percentage of students enter the workforce in the same community in which they are schooled. Accordingly, the *Rotary Scholars Program* not only assists students as they begin their college educations, but does so without the worry of major financial constraints. In addition, because these students will be attending classes at HCC, there is a greater chance that the Hopkinsville and Christian County workforce will be larger, more qualified and better compensated.



On an even larger scale, how is the *Rotary Scholars Program* relevant?

- ◆ As the Community Vision Plan brought to light, many of the challenges we are experiencing locally are centered around education. The areas of concern are as far-reaching as the number of issues. Matters are compounded for schools with looming state budget cuts, and for students with their need for increased Federal loans. However, the *Rotary Scholars Program* seeks to address all of these issues. The program reaches out to students at a younger age (8th grade) and the requirements serve as an incentive for a longer period (9th grade through Associates Degree). There is a proverbial “carrot” hanging in front of every student. This motivation is enough to increase the college going rate. Plus, because any eligible student can attend HCC tuition free, many of the loan balances that can take years to pay are now relieved.

