

June 1, 2005

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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The Honorable Benjamin J. Lambert, III, Chairman of the *Brown v. Board of Education* Scholarship Awards Committee, announced today 48 initial scholarship recipients for the 2005-2006 school year. Award letters will be sent by the Committee to scholarship recipients detailing the amount of the award, eligibility criteria for scholarship renewal, and the approved educational program, local school board, or institution of higher education to which the funds will be released on behalf of the recipient. In addition, the Committee tentatively approved approximately 42 other applications, pending the applicant satisfying the eligibility criteria for the scholarship under the law.

The members of the Scholarship Awards Committee are Senators Benjamin J. Lambert, III of Richmond and Henry L. Marsh, III of Richmond; Delegates Watkins M. Abbitt, Jr. of Appomattox, Clarke N. Hogan of South Boston, Floyd H. Miles, Sr. of Charles City, Thomas C. Wright, Jr. of Victoria; and nonlegislative citizens Dr. Patricia Johnson Brown of Richmond, Tameka A. Ferrell of Halifax, Andrew I. Heidelberg of Norfolk, Donald E. Martin of Charlottesville, and Phyllistine Ward Mosley of Lynchburg.

The 2004 Virginia General Assembly established the scholarship program during the first year of the Commonwealth's two-year long commemoration of the 50th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*. The program is designed to assist current domiciled residents of Virginia, who were enrolled in the public schools of the Commonwealth between 1954 and 1964 during Massive Resistance in localities which closed public schools to avoid desegregation, in obtaining an education. During this era, many African-American and White students moved to other localities in- and out-of-state to try to secure an education, and other school divisions were impacted by school closings.

Eligible Virginians may attend approved adult education programs for the GED or high school diploma, or enroll part time or full time in accredited public and private two-year and four-year institutions of higher education in Virginia to obtain career or technical education or training, or an undergraduate degree. Scholarships may be used only to cover the costs of tuition.

To ensure that potentially eligible Virginians are made aware of the opportunity to obtain an education through the *Brown v. Board of Education* Scholarship Program, the Committee hereby notifies all residents of the Commonwealth of the availability of the scholarship. All meetings of the Committee are open to the public.

Persons who were unable to meet the March 1, 2005, deadline for the first round of awards may apply no later than **March 1, 2006**, for the 2006-2007 academic year. Application packets will be available upon request **after October 1, 2005**, by contacting Ms. Brenda H. Edwards, Division of Legislative Services, General Assembly Building, 2nd Floor, Richmond, VA 23219, (804) 786-3591.

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