



NEWS RELEASE

Thursday, April 23, 2009

CONTACT: Steven Baratte
AVID Center
(858) 380-4754
sbaratte@avidcenter.org

\$2.98 Million in Scholarships awarded to 149 AVID Students by the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation

Scholarships recognize students' individual determination

SAN DIEGO – A total of 149 AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) students nationwide will have the opportunity to fulfill their dream of a college education, thanks in part to the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation's Dell Scholars Program. More than \$6 million in scholarships will be awarded to this year's Dell Scholars to attend a college of their choice.

"It's gratifying to see the hard work and determination of our AVID students recognized and rewarded," said Jim Nelson, executive director of AVID. "The tremendous support of the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation will help allow students to realize their dreams of going to college."

Unlike many scholarship opportunities that focus solely on academic records, the Dell Scholars Program is need-based and evaluates college-ready high school students on their demonstrated ability to overcome obstacles and determination to succeed. Each Dell Scholar will receive \$20,000 each to continue their higher education for the next six years. In addition, the Dell Scholars Program provides its students with technology, resources and mentoring to ensure they have the support they need to obtain a college degree.

With this year's announcement, the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation has recognized more than 820 AVID students through the Dell Scholars Program. The program began in 2004 as an extension of the Foundation's support of college-readiness programs such as AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination). AVID is a college-readiness system that prepares students in the academic middle for higher education, based on their ability to succeed in college given the necessary academic, personal and financial support.

"The Dell Scholars are truly amazing students who have already accomplished so much," said Kevin Byrne, Director, Dell Scholars at the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation. "Many of them will be the first in their families to go to college. The Dell Scholars Program is designed to not only help them get there, but also to ensure they finish school and start the careers of their dreams, eventually inspiring others in their communities to follow a similar path."

The Dell Scholars Program targets underserved youth and lower income students from high schools nationwide, many of whom participate in the AVID program to promote higher education. Requirements include graduation from an accredited high school, demonstrated financial need, a minimum GPA of 2.4 on a 4.0 scale, and intent to enter a bachelor's degree program at an accredited higher education institution in the fall.

About the Organizations

AVID

Advancement Via Individual Determination, or AVID, is a fourth grade through high school system to prepare students in the academic middle for four-year college eligibility, and is currently implemented in over 4,000 sites in 45 states, Washington, DC and 15 countries. Currently, AVID serves nearly 300,000 students. For more information, visit www.avidonline.org.

Michael & Susan Dell Foundation

The Michael & Susan Dell Foundation (www.msdf.org) is dedicated to improving the lives of children living in urban poverty around the world. With offices in Austin, TX and New Delhi, India, the Dell family foundation funds programs that foster high-quality public education and childhood health, and improve the economic stability of families living in poverty. The foundation has committed more than \$530 million to global children's issues and community initiatives to date.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Michael & Susan Dell Foundation is separate and distinct from the Dell Foundation. In first reference, please use 'The Michael & Susan Dell Foundation.' For second references, 'the Dell family foundation' is correct.

###