

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Claude Moore Foundation Grants \$250,000 to Loudoun Laurels Foundation Endowment**

The trustees of the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation have awarded a grant in the amount of \$250,000 to the Loudoun Laurels Foundation for its Loudoun Laurels Stewardship Trust endowment. The Claude Moore Foundation's grant is a matching grant to the \$250,000 grant made by the May Family Foundation earlier this year.

In announcing the award, Jay Lambert, Executive Director said "The trustees of the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation believe the Loudoun Laurels provide a great social impact to the Loudoun community. "

"The establishment of our endowment is a major milestone for the Loudoun Laurels Foundation and we are grateful for the generous support of the Claude Moore Foundation and the May Family Foundation," stated President, Pat Daly. "During the past six years, our scholarships have been funded through contributions from individuals, foundations and businesses. The endowment will ensure the sustainability of our scholarship program and enable us to increase the number of four-year scholarships we award each year to deserving students who, without these scholarships, may not have the opportunity to attend college."

Elaine May, Executive Director of the May Family Foundation said, "We're delighted to be partnering with the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation to support this exciting evolution in the Loudoun Laurels mission. For over a decade, Loudoun Laurels has honored community leaders and the ways they have contributed to making Loudoun the wonderful place it is. More recently, Loudoun Laurels has bestowed scholarships to help grow our future leaders. Many individuals, groups, and institutions have been involved in this effort. These combined gifts today recognize the commitment of all the extraordinary women and men of our community and assure these — as one student said "life-changing" —scholarships remain in perpetuity. She added, "I want to thank Pat Daly who has come on board to help organize Loudoun Laurels and bring the organization to the next level."

The Loudoun Laurels Foundation was created to honor exceptional community service by individuals for the benefit of Loudoun County citizens. In 2013 it established the Loudoun Laurels Stewardship Trust to grant scholarships to Loudoun County public school students in the

academic middle who have demonstrated potential for success through hard work and personal sacrifice. The students are among the first generation in their families to attend college.

Since the inception of the program the Loudoun Laurels Stewardship Trust has awarded \$800,000 in scholarships to 20 Loudoun County high school students. Each year the Loudoun Laurels' directors, on the recommendation of the members of its scholarship recipient selection committee, grant up to four scholarships in the amount of \$40,000 each. The scholarships are disbursed in \$10,000 increments annually to the Virginia colleges or universities attended by the students over the four-year terms of their undergraduate studies.

The Loudoun Laurels Stewardship Trust scholarship recipients have achieved a great deal during their college careers. For example, Ngozi Akingbesote, a senior at the University of Virginia, is in Los Angeles this summer for an internship at California Institute of Technology where she is conducting research to find genetic markers for diabetes.

Sumeet Saini, a junior at Christopher Newport University, who has participated in the Model United Nations, is an intern with the City of Newport News this summer. And Jenae Barnes, a senior at George Mason University majoring in Global Affairs, was a Global Politics Fellow at the Wilson Center for Development last year. She will intern at the Wilson Center in her upcoming senior year.

By the end of the academic year in June 2019, 94% of the Loudoun Laurels scholarship recipients had either graduated from college or were currently enrolled. Of the 20 students who have received Loudoun Laurels Stewardship Trust scholarships, six have graduated and thirteen are successfully pursuing their college careers. The graduates have established careers in banking, public service and technology.