



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **\$3.54 Million in Scholarships awarded to 176 AVID Students by the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation**

#### ***Scholarships recognize students' drive and determination***

SAN DIEGO – A total of 176 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.

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.

"These students are a testament to hard work and determination," said Jim Nelson, executive director of AVID. "With the generous support of the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, college will now become a reality for these students and families."

With this year's announcement, the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation has recognized nearly 1,000 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. "These students have worked hard throughout their academic careers and 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."

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**

AVID is a 30-year-old, non-profit college readiness system preparing underserved (predominantly minority and economically disadvantaged) students for college. Of the 2009 AVID graduates, 99.6 percent graduated from high school with 92 percent planning to attend college ~ 60 percent to a four-year college and 32 percent to a two-year college. Since 1990, more than 65,300 AVID students have graduated from high school and planned to attend college. Today, AVID's college readiness system is implemented in nearly 4,500 schools in 45 states, the District of Columbia and 16 countries/territories, and serves more than 400,000 students in grades 4-12. For more information, visit [www.avid.org](http://www.avid.org).

##### **Michael & Susan Dell Foundation**

The Michael & Susan Dell Foundation ([www.msdf.org](http://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. With an endowment of \$1.3 billion, the foundation has committed almost \$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.*

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