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**For Immediate Release**

**Online Scholarship Application Process  
Eases the Pathway to Funding for Students**

*A multitude of scholarships available on one application*

**Contact:**

Vince Heald, Beck Ellman Heald  
858-453-9600  
[vheald@behmedia.com](mailto:vheald@behmedia.com)

Heather Back, The San Diego Foundation  
619-235-2300  
[heather@sdfoundation.org](mailto:heather@sdfoundation.org)

December 20, 2011 – The San Diego Foundation believes everyone has a right to higher education, and this year’s launch of the Common Scholarship Application is more important than ever. To meet the anticipated increased demand from a poor economy, The San Diego Foundation has launched an online application. With one application, students are considered for hundreds of scholarships held at The San Diego Foundation.

The Foundation plans to award approximately \$3 million in scholarships in 2012. The Foundation’s Community Scholarship Program offers a wide variety of scholarships to graduating high school seniors, current college graduates, and adult re-entry students. Awards are granted to four-year universities, two-year colleges, graduate, and trade/vocational schools.

With the economy so volatile and tuition costs rising, The Foundation is preparing for a sharp increase in applications from graduating high school seniors who are financially struggling, as well as from adults who find themselves out of work and returning to the classroom to develop new job skills.

“The San Diego Foundation believes affordable education is imperative to the future of our region,” said Bob Kelly, President and CEO of The San Diego Foundation.

“The community’s support of and contribution to our scholarship program sends a

message to our young people that we place great value on their education and will be there to support them during these difficult times.”

The San Diego Foundation is the largest scholarship provider, outside of the university system, in San Diego County. Donors provided the resources to award more than \$3 million in scholarships to more than 600 students last year. The San Diego Foundation is uniquely positioned to allow donors the opportunity to be involved in the selection and interview process. Through The Foundation’s Scholarship celebration luncheons, donors and students have a chance to connect and share their personal stories. Students gain a better understanding of the donors’ passion for scholarships and donors learn more about the recipients they are supporting.

To contribute to this outstanding program and make higher education possible for more San Diegans, please contact Arzo Nasiri, Director of Scholarships, at (619) 235-2300 or [arzo@sdfoundation.org](mailto:arzo@sdfoundation.org). Those interested in applying for scholarships can access a multitude of links and resources, as well as the Common Scholarship Application on our website at [www.sdfoundation.org/scholarships](http://www.sdfoundation.org/scholarships). The deadline is February 13, 2012.

For media purposes we have available current and past scholarship recipients, as well as volunteers and Foundation staff to speak on this story. Please contact Heather Back at [heather@sdfoundation.org](mailto:heather@sdfoundation.org) for more information.

#### About The San Diego Foundation

Founded in 1975, The San Diego Foundation is a broad-purpose community foundation helping individuals, families and organizations carry out their charitable plans, with the common goals of improving the quality of life in the greater San Diego region, now and for generations to come.

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