



NJDOE News

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Local Interest **2008 Byrd Scholarship Winners Announced**

Education Commissioner Lucille E. Davy announced today that 175 New Jersey students are among the national winners of federally-funded Robert C. Byrd scholarships for 2008.

A list of New Jersey winners is available online here: http://www.nj.gov/education/news/2008/0806byrd_a.pdf

"We are very proud of these outstanding students," said Commissioner Davy. "They have all demonstrated that they have the potential to become leaders in their chosen fields and we wish them the best as they begin their college careers."

The Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program honors exceptional achievement in students who show promise of continued academic excellence. Students are nominated by their schools and must be among the top academic performers in their graduating classes.

Federal funding levels determine the number of scholarships awarded each year and the dollar amount of the scholarship award. This year's award is \$1,500 per recipient, to be used to help offset costs of undergraduate study at an accredited institution of higher education.

The recipients announced today were selected from a pool of more than 1,600 New Jersey nominees. Final selections were based on grade point average, SAT scores, class rank, course difficulty, grades in advanced placement classes and advanced placement tests and other factors that can be determined by a review of student transcripts.

The federal funding for the Byrd program provided to the state each year also pays for the scholarships for almost 600 past New Jersey winners who are already in college. For the 2008-09 academic year, 186 sophomores, 192 juniors, and 201 seniors will continue to receive this scholarship.

For more information on the content of this news release, contact DOE's Office of Public Information at 609-292-1126.