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Héctor Ericksen-Mendoza  
Office: (202) 296-5400:  
Cell: (202) 413-9507  
[Hector@HispanicFund.org](mailto:Hector@HispanicFund.org)

## **VERIZON FOUNDATION SUPPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 28 HIGH-ACHIEVING HISPANIC STUDENTS**

### **Hispanic College Fund Selects University Students For The Verizon Scholars Program**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, the Hispanic College Fund, the premier organization developing Hispanic professionals, is proud to announce the first winners of the Verizon Scholars program. The Verizon Scholars Program supports 28 undergraduate Hispanic college students from among the more than 2600 applicants to be the first to receive the award and special recognition as Verizon Scholars. The Verizon Scholars are pursuing degrees in business administration, finance, economics, accounting, marketing and engineering. The awards range from \$500 to \$5,000 and are helping students start the 2007-2008 academic year with a lighter financial load. The Verizon Foundation awarded the Hispanic College a \$100,000 grant in May of this year. In addition to the scholarships, the students will also gain access to mentors and other academic support via the Hispanic College Fund youth development programs such as Hispanic Young Professionals (HYP), HCF Connections, and Latinos on Fast Track (LOFT).

“Our partnership with the Hispanic College Fund plays an important part in Verizon’s effort to support higher education among Latino youth. For many, like me, a college education would not have been possible were it not for scholarships provided through corporate and nonprofit partnerships like these,” said Magda Yrizarry, vice president for workforce culture, diversity, and compliance for Verizon.

“The Verizon Foundation has made a wise investment in the education of these young people,” said Idalia P. Fernandez, President, Hispanic College Fund. “By increasing educational opportunities for Hispanic students, the Verizon Foundation is broadening the pipeline of prepared professionals who have the skills and cultural competence to meet the growing needs of our nation’s employers.”

Several of the Verizon Scholars will be attending the Hispanic College Fund’s Scholarship Awards Gala on Friday, October 26 in Washington, DC. They will be joined by twenty other HCF Scholars and will participate in a number of career-focused activities including visiting several major employers in the DC area, participating in business-etiquette and networking workshops, and pairing up with business professional at the Mentor Luncheon. Finally, they will be applauded by the 500 guests attending the gala, including this year’s Corporation of the Year Award Recipient, Mr. Bill Marriott for Marriott International.

Patricia Santamarie a freshman at the University of Norte Dame said, “Thank you (Verizon Foundation) for being a sponsor and allowing me to obtain this great opportunity, which will assist me in achieving my goal of becoming a mechanical engineer at the University of Notre Dame.”

*The Hispanic College Fund (HCF) is a private non-profit organization dedicated to developing the next generation of Hispanic professionals. Since its founding in 1993, the Hispanic College Fund has supported the education of more than 4,000 financially disadvantaged Hispanic students seeking careers in business, science, engineering and technology with over \$9 million in grants. Through programs like the HCF Scholarship Program, Hispanic Youth Symposium, Latinos on the Fast Track (LOFT), HCF Connections and the Hispanic Young Professionals Leadership & Development Program, the Hispanic College Fund is enriching lives and building bridges for our future Hispanic leaders.*

For more information, visit [www.hispanicfund.org](http://www.hispanicfund.org) or call 1-800-644-4223.

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