



**For Immediate Release
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**Contact: Ric Moore
(614) 451-1787**

Rhodes Foundation receives Wal-Mart donation for SE Ohio College Scholarships

(Columbus) – The James A. Rhodes Leadership Foundation recently received its first ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) donation from Wal-Mart to provide college scholarships for residents of southeastern Ohio. The Rhodes Foundation is named after Ohio’s longest serving Governor, who is known for having implemented the Truman Commission Report which created Ohio’s Community Colleges system.

Of the donation, Chief Executive Officer for the Foundation Ric Moore said, “We welcome the partnership with Wal-Mart and thank them for their generous support. This money will help provide southeastern Ohio residents scholarships for Ohio’s community colleges.” Moore continued, “State Senator John Carey also deserves our thanks for bringing the Foundation and Wal-Mart together and for sponsoring the \$10 million state matching fund that will provide a \$10,000 match of the Wal-Mart donation.”

In June 2007 as Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Senator Carey was successful in securing a \$10 million state match specifically for the Rhodes Foundation. Established as an endowment, The Rhodes Foundation is raising funds that will be matched by the state of Ohio. Earnings from the funds are then utilized to provide a scholarship for Ohioans with financial need.

The Foundation indicated that the benefits of investing in The Rhodes Foundation include:

- Recipient monetary award averaging \$2000 per student. Funds support auxiliary expenses incurred with college enrollment; e.g. books, uniforms.
- Investor creates a named, restricted, scholarship within JARLF endowment fund.
- Investor nominates (1) person to participate on JARLF Regional Application Review Panel.

- Recipient and Investor invitations to regional, biannual, social events created to foster peer to peer and professional mentoring relationships.
- Lifetime membership to the Rhodes Foundation leadership network, an online social networking community of statewide scholarship recipients and statewide business and government partners.
- Access to JARLF facilitated internships throughout the state of Ohio. JARLF corporate partners are asked to make available internship opportunities for JARLF recipients.
- Participation in JARLF “Diploma to Work” initiative, a program created to transition scholarship recipients into the Ohio workforce post graduation. Recipients are required to maintain Ohio employment and remain engaged in peer to peer mentoring for a minimum of four years post graduation.

Historians note that Ohio’s community college system was a part of Rhodes’ “Blue Print for Brain Power” that sought to empower Ohio students to become the most educated workforce in the country.

“We look forward to continuing to working with our partners at Wal-Mart s well as to foster greater working relationships with Ohio’s the business community. Our goal is not only to increase enrollment at Ohio’s community and technical colleges but also link these businesses with capable young Ohioans who without this Foundation would perhaps never realize the dreams that a 2 year community and technical college education can provide,” Mr. Moore stated. “Working together, we can give these stewards of our future the skills they need to increase their earning capacity, strengthen Ohio’s economy while improving the business climate with a renewed infusion of skilled workers.”

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