



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Joint Press Release: Connecticut Student Loan Foundation and Rocky Hill Public Schools*

### **CSLF Demonstrates Commitment to Youth Mentoring**

*CSLF Partners with Rocky Hill Public Schools to Provide Scholarships to Student Mentees*

**Rocky Hill, CT – January 30, 2006** - The Connecticut Student Loan Foundation (CSLF<sup>®</sup>) and the Rocky Hill Public Schools are pleased to announce that CSLF has committed to award five (5) scholarships to students participating in the Rocky Hill Public Schools Mentoring Program. The mentoring program reaches out to “at promise” students and matches them with local community members, who provide support and assistance in helping the students develop the skills they need to succeed.

“CSLF is pleased to support the Rocky Hill Public Schools Mentoring Program, which provides such a great opportunity for students,” said Mark W. Valenti, President of CSLF. “CSLF strongly believes in the program and is proud to show its support by not only providing scholarships, but by also providing mentors for students enrolled in the program,” said Mr. Valenti.

The Rocky Hill Public Schools Mentoring Program, now in its fifth year, currently has over thirty (30) students and mentors participating in the program. The program helps students to develop work ethic and responsibility, improve self-esteem, strengthen relationships with peers and family members, and increase communication skills. The pilot group of mentees, which are currently in their junior year of high school, will be eligible for a scholarship as seniors, provided they remain within the mentoring program until graduation.

“The Rocky Hill Board of Education is appreciative of the level of support exhibited by the Connecticut Student Loan Foundation,” said Kathy Smith Hallett, Mentoring Program Coordinator. “Mark Valenti’s establishment of the scholarship for the students in the mentoring program is further proof that the business sector recognizes the value of investing in the children and future workforce of Rocky Hill,” said Hallett.

The scholarships will be awarded in honor of Sheila G. Houle, a dedicated employee of CSLF for over 35 years, who lost her battle with cancer in August 2005.

**ABOUT CSLF** – *The Connecticut Student Loan Foundation (CSLF) is a national, non-profit agency that administers, guarantees, finances, and services loans within the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) and other alternative loan programs. CSLF has over 40 years of experience providing assistance to students and parents seeking to finance a higher education. As a guarantor, CSLF assures that low-interest Federal Stafford Loans and Federal PLUS Loans remain available to eligible students and parents. CSLF also is a lender and provides financing directly to educational institutions on behalf of students and parents. Learn more about CSLF at [www.cslf.com](http://www.cslf.com).*

**ABOUT ROCKY HILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS MENTORING PROGRAM** – *The mission of the mentor program is to allow students the opportunity to reach their maximum potential by offering guidance, encouragement and support. Spending **only one hour per week** with a sixth, seventh or eighth grade child can be the best way individuals and businesses can invest in the region's future workforce. Foster a love for learning? Spark an interest in a specific career? Mentors **can** make a difference. The program is not like Big Brothers or Sisters or tutorial in nature. The mentors will be significant adults, who as good role models and listeners will support the children in pursuing an interest or developing a talent during a weekly visit at the school.*

**For more information, contact:**

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