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Contact Penny Ramos-Bennett or  
Anthony Springer, Jr. (702) 799-5304

CCSD announces Class of 2012 broke record for amount of scholarship dollars earned, challenges future grads to top amount

Superintendent Jones, CCSD graduates challenge future graduates to break quarter billion dollar record

LAS VEGAS – Many of the Clark County School District’s college-bound graduates will have some additional dollars to rely on when college classes begin in the fall. Students from the nation’s fifth largest school district earned nearly \$240 million in scholarship funds to be used at colleges and universities across the country, from the College of Southern Nevada to Harvard. The total is a new record for the school district.

Recognizing that every little bit helps, Superintendent Dwight D. Jones created the Dewayne D. Jones scholarship in honor of his father, who was a proponent of students in rural areas attending college. Jones presented one of the three scholarships awarded to Sandy Valley High School graduate Kenzi Smith August 3 at the District’s administrative building.

“My father was a big advocate of education,” said Jones. “He believed that every child, regardless of where they grew up in should be able to attend college. This scholarship is a way to give back in his name and honors the hard

One of the District’s Harvard-bound graduates also attended to share his knowledge and experiences. Taikeye Wright-Brown, a Cheyenne High School graduate earned more than \$60,000 in scholarships and was not deterred from the Ivy League school because of family income.

"I chose Harvard because of the scholarship opportunities," Wright-Brown said. "If your family makes less than a certain amount, Harvard does not have an expected family contribution. I got the opportunity to apply and I was accepted."

As of July, 2012, students earned \$175 million in merit based scholarships and an additional \$65 million in Millennium Scholarship dollars. Final estimates from the Millennium Scholarship will be available in August and District officials expect the dollar amount to increase.

Superintendent Jones praised the hard work of the graduates, all the individuals that pushed the class to greatness and challenged future classes to break the record set this year.

“My goal for this District is to have every graduating senior ‘Ready by Exit’ to compete in college or career without remediation,” said Jones. “Part of that readiness is being able to fund your education. I’m proud of all our graduates who earned scholarships and our hard working, teachers, counselors, administrators and support staff who work with our students daily. I hope this news inspires future graduating classes to aim for the stars and break the record set by the Class of 2012.”

For more information about the Clark County School District, visit [http:// www.ccsd.net](http://www.ccsd.net).

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Office of the Superintendent - Communications Office - 5100 West Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89146