

**The information below can be adapted in presenting both certificates and the Educator of Distinction Award.**

In 1986 to celebrate Coca-Cola's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, supported by Coca-Cola bottlers across the U.S. and The Coca-Cola Company, was established.

The mission of the Foundation is to enhance educational opportunities through scholarship awards for young people who demonstrate academic excellence and leadership in their schools and community.

The Coca-Cola Scholars Program is the largest achievement-based and corporate-sponsored scholarship program in the United States. We identify amazing young people who have had a significant positive impact in their schools and communities through their leadership, service, and involvement, and who also demonstrate the promise for continued positive impact.

The Coke Scholars program awards \$3 MILLION annually to high school seniors. 150 students are designated as Coca-Cola Scholars each year. Each Coca-Cola Scholar is awarded \$20,000.

This year, the Foundation reviewed over 107,000 applications -- 1,232 were designated as Semifinalists and they completed a second application which included essays, a recommendation, and school transcript, which was evaluated by a team of educators from across the United States. From these Semifinalists, 250 Regional Finalist were chosen to be interviewed. Of those 250, only 150 (less than 1/6<sup>th</sup> of 1% of applicants) were named Coca-Cola Scholars.

We are excited to welcome NEW SCHOLAR NAME into the Scholars network as one of those 150 new Scholars. Please join me in congratulating, SCHOLAR FIRST NAME!

- **For Educator of Distinction presentation**

The purpose of the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation Educator of Distinction award is simple: to celebrate an educator elected by a Coca-Cola Scholar who, in their opinion, has greatly impacted their vision of education. The nominee may be any educator – a superintendent, principal, teacher, coach, band instructor or counselor.

SCHOLAR INDICATES RECIPIENT, EXPLAINS WHY SELECTED