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Date: April 1, 2013

**For Immediate Release**

**Mele Family Fund Math and Science Scholarships**

**For Proctor High School and Rome Free Academy Seniors;**

**Applications Available Now, and due April 18, 2013**

**Four Awards of $12,000 each to qualifying Utica and Rome students.**

Utica Dollars for Scholars, a volunteer organization promoting scholarship opportunities for local students since 1994, is pleased to announce the availability of the Mele Family Fund Math and Science Scholarship for 2013. This is the second year of applications for this special scholarship that will be awarded to four students and can total $12,000 each over four years in college for a total of $48,000.

The Mele Family Fund Math and Science Scholarships have been established for students who are outstanding in math and/or science and are recommended by a teacher for excellence in this area. In 2012, four students (two from Proctor and two from RFA) were selected for this four-year award of $3,000 annually, for a total of $12,000 each if they continue to qualify by academic grade and college enrollment.

These special scholarships are renewable for up to four years, based on the recipients maintaining a “B” or higher grade-point average and continuing to be enrolled in a four-year postsecondary higher education program.

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The Mele Family Fund is a donor-advised fund of The Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties, Inc. The scholarship is administered by Utica Dollars for Scholars. Two Proctor High School recipients are recommended by the Utica Dollars for Scholars, and the two Rome Free Academy recipients by Rome Dollars for Scholars.

The scholarship application can be downloaded and submitted no later than the deadline on April 18, 2013. In addition to information and application forms located at the web site, [**www.udfs.org**](http://www.udfs.org/), information has been distributed to Oneida and Herkimer County high school Guidance Offices. A paper application form can also be received by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to: **Utica Dollars for Scholars, P.O. Box 1733, Utica NY 13503.**

**For more information on UDFS**

 Utica Dollars for Scholars is a locally controlled scholarship foundation and a non-profit, volunteer organization affiliated with Scholarship America™. Since its inception, UDFS has presented over $340,000 through its student recognition program including $280,610 for awards, $42,620 for Collegiate Partner matching grants and $17,500 in the President’s Service Scholar Matching Grant Program. In 2012 there were 78 grants totaling $43,750, plus $2,925 in matching grants. Awards in 2012 ranged from $100 to $500 each with several of $1,000, $2,000 and the Mele Family Fund grants of $3,000.

 The mission of Utica Dollars for Scholars is to establish and maintain a growing source of financial and academic support for local students. Awards come from donations by individuals, family members, businesses and organizations; also from bequests, memorial gifts, grants, and fund-raising events. Local volunteers conduct award selection and chapter activities.

For more information or to submit applications for scholarship consideration, visit the Utica Dollars for Scholars website at [**www.udfs.org**](http://www.udfs.org/), e-mail **UticaDFS@gmail.com**, or write to: UDFS, P.O. Box 1733, Utica NY 13503.

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