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**CEO**

Lisa Conescu

**Fact Sheet**

**Mission:** The mission of Jefferson Dollars for Scholars is to expand access to educational opportunities for Jefferson Parish Public School students through scholarships and academic support.

**History:** Founded in 1993, Jefferson Dollars for Scholars is a chapter of Scholarship America, the largest privately-funded scholarship organization in the country. There are 1,100 chapters of Dollars for Scholars in the United States.

**Sources of Funding:** Dollars for Scholars scholarships are entirely funded by community support. Nationally, Dollars for Scholars began with \$1 donations-Eleanor Roosevelt gave the first dollar. **Jefferson Parish Public school students raise approximately \$45,000 annually through dollar donations** during the February School Drive.

**Programs:** Since 1993, Jefferson Dollars for Scholars has awarded more than **\$20 million, benefiting 5,000 public school students.**

- **College Scholarships:** Each year, Jefferson Dollars for Scholars awards 150-190 college scholarships to Jefferson Parish public high school seniors, most of whom are first-generation college attendees. Recipients are currently enrolled in 51 colleges nationwide, most in Louisiana, and graduates are working all over the world. Since 2005, Jefferson Dollars for Scholars has provided its college scholarship recipients with refurbished computers. Since 1993, Jefferson Dollars for Scholars has awarded **3,000 college scholarships.**
- **Summer Academic Enrichment:** Jefferson Dollars for Scholars awards summer academic enrichment camp scholarships to public school students in grades K-8, enabling students to participate in enriching summer camp experiences that foster intellectual curiosity. The academic enrichment awards introduce young students to the scholarship concept and provide an early push for post-secondary education. Since the program began in 1993, Jefferson Dollars for Scholars has awarded **2,500 Summer Enrichment Scholarships.**
- **ACT Test Preparation:** Jefferson Dollars for Scholars' "To the TOPS" program helps students gain eligibility for TOPS and has generated a potential **\$3 million in additional TOPS dollars for Jefferson Parish Public School students.** Seniors who participate in "To the TOPS" classes and earn TOPS funding are also eligible to receive laptops.

**Honors:** Scholarship America Awards

- **National Chapter of the Year** and **National Region Chapter of the Year** – 2010
- Golden Tassel Award for **Outstanding Established Chapter in the Country** – 2002
- Golden Tassel Award for **Outstanding New Chapter in the Country** – 1996