



## CONNECTICUT STUDENT LOAN FOUNDATION

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## CSLF Announces VJM Scholarship Recipients

**Rocky Hill, CT – June 26, 2006** - The Connecticut Student Loan Foundation (CSLF®) is pleased to announce the 2006 recipients of the Vincent J. Maiocco (VJM) Scholarship. Four Connecticut students, Elizabet Cerquozzi of Bridgeport, Lindsay Kukona of West Hartford, Emily Marino of Niantic, and Jesse Nasta of Middletown, will each receive a \$2,500 scholarship which will be used to help reduce their student loan debt.

Elizabet Cerquozzi, a sophomore at Sacred Heart University (Fairfield, CT), majors in Finance and Business Administration and maintains a 3.9 Grade Point Average (GPA). Ms. Cerquozzi is on the Dean's List and is a member of the Phi Eta Sigma national honor society. Ms. Cerquozzi also tutors math to high school students and participates in youth volunteer programs.

Lindsay Kukona, a junior at Wesleyan University (Middletown, CT), majors in American Studies and maintains a 3.78 GPA. Ms. Kukona was a member of the Wesleyan women's basketball and crew teams. She volunteers at the Middletown Head Start Program and plans to continue her education at the graduate level to become a teacher for underprivileged children.

Emily Marino, a sophomore at Gordon College (Wenham, MA), majors in Elementary Education and Spanish and maintains a 3.74 GPA. Ms. Marino was a member of the Gordon College swim team during her freshman year and also received a partial scholarship to study in Spain. She volunteers for the Lynn Initiative which involves tutoring local children. She hopes to become an elementary school teacher.

Jesse Nasta, a junior at Wesleyan University (Middletown, CT), majors in History and maintains a 4.0 GPA. Mr. Nasta has published articles in *Avotaynu*, *The International Review of Jewish Genealogy and Quest*, the publication of the Jewish Genealogical Society in Connecticut. He was awarded the Center for Humanities Fellowship and the Ford Teaching Fellowship. Mr. Nasta plans to continue his education at the graduate level and hopes to work toward preserving the past through research and education.

The VJM Scholarship Fund was established in honor of Vincent J. Maiocco, the first employee and former President of CSLF, who retired in 1992. The fund provides scholarships to students financing their postsecondary education with loans guaranteed by CSLF. Over the past 12 years more than \$130,000 has been raised, helping to provide 21 scholarships to deserving students demonstrating outstanding academic achievement and community service.

Scholarship applications are available in the spring each year. For more information, visit [www.cslf.com](http://www.cslf.com).

***ABOUT CSLF** – The Connecticut Student Loan Foundation (CSLF) is a national, non-profit agency that administers, guarantees, and finances loans within the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) and other alternative student loan programs. CSLF has over 40 years of experience providing assistance to students and parents seeking to finance a higher education. CSLF promotes access to higher education by helping families plan for and pursue their postsecondary education and by assuring that low-cost funding options remain available to eligible students and parents. Learn more about CSLF at [www.cslf.com](http://www.cslf.com).*