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# Press Release

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## **SCAG REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

**LOS ANGELES – July 6, 2009** – The Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) has approved a scholarship program aimed at offering local planning experience that students can use to develop their long-term career goals. The \$2,000-per-student scholarship includes a two-week externship, seminar, and recognition luncheon.

“We have wanted to offer this type of program for a long time,” said SCAG President and El Centro City Councilman Jon Edney. “It’s a worthwhile educational career tool for local students and will go a long way toward developing Southern California’s future planning workforce.”

Scholarship applicants must be high school juniors or seniors or community college students with a grade point average of at least 3.0. Applicants will be required to complete an application, write a 500-word essay expressing their interest in urban planning, public policy and/or public service, and provide two letters of recommendation. Scholarship awardees must be available for a two-week externship assignment during the summer and attend a seminar and Regional Council meeting in July.

Initially, a scholarship will be awarded to seven students – one student in each of the six counties within the SCAG region, with the exception of Los Angeles County, which will have two scholarship recipients to represent the population size. In the future, as awareness of and interest in the scholarship program grows, the agency anticipates awarding 14 scholarships annually.

Funding for SCAG’s scholarship program will come from private sector sponsorships and matches from SCAG.

For information, contact Ma’Ayn Johnson at 213. 236.1975.

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***About SCAG***

*SCAG is the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 189 cities and more than 18 million residents. SCAG undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to plan for a livable and sustainable Southern California now and in the future. For more information about SCAG's regional efforts, please visit [www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov).*