

September 17, 2009

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On Sept. 8, the Burleson 4A Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and the Burleson City Council ratified a resolution in support of a \$60,000 donation from the EDC to the Burleson Opportunity Fund. The money is available through the 4A Sales Tax Fund.

In 2008, the City contributed \$25,000 in seed money to the Burleson Opportunity Fund from the City's gas well revenues. Last year, the school district matched the City with critical in-kind commitments. Approximately \$73,900 was donated to the Burleson Opportunity Fund in 2008 by community groups and businesses as well as the City. The scholarships, which covered tuition and fees, funded 32 credit hours per student. Each awardee is required to take a minimum of 12 hours per semester at Hill College. Twenty-seven students from Burleson High School and Crossroads High School were tapped for scholarships in 2008.

In 2009, 39 students were awarded Burleson Opportunity Fund scholarships to Hill College. The scholarship winners include Nickolas Alvarado, Audrey Beckler, Drew Blain, Taylor Boiles, Angela Clark, Stephanie Craig, Jessica Dishman, Emily Evans, Alex Farnan, Christopher Gauntt, Randy Griffin, Jamison Hall, Randi Helm, Cortney Hill, Carly Rae Johnson, Ashley Lemons, James Lewis, Joshua Lewis, Mitchell Lott, Brittany Lozier, Tamarah Martinez, Mylea Mauney,



Casey McWhirter, Ashley Meek, Jacob Menken, Richard Morton, Christopher Mueller, Casey Owings, Amanda Powell, Meghan Rhoades, Aaron Schulter, Jacob Strickland, Megan Thomas, Victoria Thomas, Brittany Tomer, Zach Tucker, Ryan Vernon, John Weems and Sarah Wood. Students from this group plan to pursue degrees in the medical field, education, criminal justice and liberal arts.

The Development Corporation Act grants the 4A Corporation the rights, powers, privileges, authorities and functions given by the laws of Texas to nonprofit corporations. As a nonprofit, the 4A Corporation may make donations for educational purposes.

Charitable donations to the Burleson Opportunity Fund are permissible because the fund was created for educational purposes as a non-profit corporation; the 4A Corporation has the power to make donations for educational purposes; and the donation promotes

higher education opportunities that will “encourage and foster the development and diversification of the economy and elimination of unemployment and underemployment.”

For more information about the Burleson Opportunity Fund, contact Kellye Cunningham, assistant to the city manager, 817-426-9682 or log on to [www.burlesonOppFund.com](http://www.burlesonOppFund.com).