



**MEDIA RELEASE
FOR DISTRIBUTION: IMMEDIATE
Monday, February 8, 2016**

**NY CHECK CASHERS ASSOCIATION
LAUNCHES 2016 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Applications available now! Deadline is March 4, 2016

The Financial Service Centers of New York (FSCNY), in conjunction with MoneyGram International, today launched its **2016 Scholarship Awards Program**. Applications are now available and will be accepted through Monday, March 4, 2016.

The program called **“Rewarding Young Leaders in Our Community”**, now in its 20th year, focuses on nurturing and promoting leadership and accomplishments among high school students approaching their first year of college. To be eligible, applicants must demonstrate:

- Academic achievement;
- Leadership in their school;
- Involvement in their community, contributing at least 50 valuable hours of volunteer service, each year of high school.

Applicants must be seniors attending public high schools in New York City’s five boroughs or surrounding New York counties. Applications must include a 250-word essay describing the applicant’s most rewarding community service experience.

“The Scholarship Program provides us an exciting opportunity to invest in local communities by cultivating and empowering new generations of leaders”, said **Gigi Guerrero**, Chairperson of the **FSCNY/MoneyGram Scholarship Committee**. “Education has the power to transform lives, and when I look at the roster of scholarship recipients over the last 20 years, I feel moved and inspired by their achievement and commitment to building strong communities through civic engagement, community service and education excellence”.

Since its inception 20 years ago, the FSCNY/MoneyGram Scholarship Program has granted almost three-quarter million dollars to high school students in New York City and surrounding areas. Student awards range between \$2,000 and \$7,500 based on the recommendations of the Selection Committee.

The 2016 award recipients will be recognized during the FSCNY/MoneyGram Scholarship Luncheon at **FSCNY's 24th Annual Conference & Exposition**, scheduled for May 10, 2016, at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge. An acceptance letter from an accredited college or university for the Fall 2016 must be provided before receipt of the award. Applicant interviews will be conducted the week of April 11, 2016.

For additional requirements and to download the 2016 Scholarship Application Package, the public can visit www.fscny.org. Applications can be submitted via regular mail or Email. Incomplete or late applications submitted after the Monday, March 4, 2016 deadline will be disqualified.

About FSCNY:

Financial Service Centers of New York is the industry's leading voice on legislative, regulatory, and business issues and the leading advocate for the rights of consumers to access basic financial services in New York. The New York check cashing industry consists of approximately 550 check cashing locations, which employ nearly 4,000 New York residents. The industry cashes nearly 20 million checks annually with a face value of nearly \$11 billion. New York's check cashing fee cap of 2.01% is among the lowest in the nation. Learn more at www.fscny.org.

###