

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**
October 5, 2006



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Siena Scholarship Fund Established

Innovative Partnership with Washington Scholarship Fund Enables Low-Income Families to Attend The Siena School

SILVER SPRING, MD / WASHINGTON, DC, October 5, 2006 – The Siena School (“Siena”) and the Washington Scholarship Fund (“WSF”) announced tonight the establishment of the Siena Scholarship Fund (the “Siena Fund”). The Siena Fund represents a unique and innovative partnership that will assist low-income families in attending The Siena School.

“We are committed to making Siena’s outstanding educational programs accessible to families of all economic backgrounds,” said Erik Heyer, Siena’s founder and executive director. “However, as a newly established private school, we lack the necessary resources to pursue a full-scale development effort to fund scholarships and financial aid. This innovative partnership enables us to access significant philanthropic resources that would otherwise be unavailable to us. We couldn’t ask for a better partner in this mission than the Washington Scholarship Fund.”

The Siena Fund is being established with initial commitments totaling almost \$75,000. Siena and WSF expect to expand fund-raising initiatives for the Siena Fund later this year. WSF will team with Siena through its privately funded Signature Scholarship Program.

“We are very excited about the educational opportunities the Siena Fund creates for low-income families in the D.C. metro area,” said Sally Sachar, President and CEO of the Washington Scholarship Fund. “We also look forward to the potential of this partnership as a model of revenue generation to support scholarships for other small private schools. The Siena School has demonstrated tremendous leadership and creativity in establishing this Fund with WSF and we applaud the school’s commitment to expanding opportunity through this important new scholarship endeavor.”

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The Siena School is a private, coeducational day school that opened this fall in Silver Spring, MD. Its mission is to serve bright, college-bound students with mild to moderate language-based learning differences, such as dyslexia. The school currently serves 30 students in grades 5 – 9, and will expand to serve students in grades 5 – 12 by 2009.

The Washington Scholarship Fund is committed to expanding and improving educational options for low-income families in the Washington, D.C. area by allowing them to have a choice in where they send their children to elementary, middle, and high school. In addition to the Signature Scholarship Fund, WSF manages the federally funded D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program.

For more information on The Siena School, including how to apply for scholarships and financial aid, please visit www.thesienaschool.org.

About The Siena School

The Siena School is an outstanding new private school in Silver Spring, MD serving bright, college-bound students with language-based learning needs, such as dyslexia. Siena's staff and board of advisors include distinguished national, State and local education leaders and professionals. The school opened September 2006 to serve students in grades 5 – 9, and will grow to serve grades 5 – 12 by 2009. Siena's program is designed for students with mild to moderate learning needs who are experiencing a discrepancy between their academic achievement and intellectual abilities in one or more areas such as reading, writing, oral expression or math. Siena delivers a highly unique and individualized educational program featuring small class sizes, research-based instructional methodologies, a highly trained staff and an educational environment uniquely designed to meet the needs of our students. For further information, The Siena School can be contacted at (301) 592-0567 or on the web at www.thesienaschool.org.

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About Washington Scholarship Fund

The Washington Scholarship Fund (www.washingscholarshipfund.org), founded in February 1993, is committed to providing low-income Washington, D.C. families a choice in where they send their children to elementary, middle, and high school and to fulfilling the promise of equal educational opportunity for all. During the past 13 years, WSF has provided nearly \$31 million in scholarships to more than five thousand students through the federally funded D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program and the privately funded Signature Scholarship Program.

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