Case Western Reserve University is honored to be a part of this visionary pipeline project. One of our core values is diversity, and this program provides a wonderful opportunity to support promising students and at the same time meet a critical societal need.

~ President Barbara R. Snyder

The Joan C. Edwards Charitable Foundation makes multimillion-dollar, multi-year commitment

Beginning in 2011, the Health Profession Pipeline Program will provide this scholarship opportunity to one student per year from the Cleveland Metropolitan School District's Cleveland School of Science and Medicine at the John Hay Campus (CSSM). The program has the potential to educate 98 doctors from traditionally underrepresented minorities and low-income backgrounds over the next 60 years. As part of the effort, members of the Case Western Reserve community and physicians at University Hospitals Case Medical Center will provide academic programming and individual mentoring to students at CSSM.

The foundation considered Cleveland to be an ideal candidate for this program because of the presence of a science and medicine school like CSSM at the John Hay Campus and the school's proximity to nationally ranked Case Western Reserve, its School of Medicine and UH Case Medical Center. It also was drawn to the area because the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services designated many surrounding Cleveland neighborhoods as Health Professional Shortage Areas.

“Mrs. Edwards believed deeply in the importance of giving underrepresented minority and low-income students greater opportunities to become physicians and that they, in turn, could provide medical care to underserved populations,” says Thomas M. McDonald, Cleveland distribution director for the Joan C. Edwards Charitable Foundation. “The foundation believes these goals will be best achieved by enabling partners in public schools, university education and health care to build on their already strong collaborative relationships.”

The foundation hopes the Cleveland pipeline program will be a successful model for others nationwide.