New LANL scholarship supports returning students

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LOS ALAMOS, New Mexico, January 24, 2011— The Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation, through the Los Alamos Employees Scholarship Fund (LAESF), is launching a scholarship for students who plan to return to formal education after taking a break. The first round of awards is scheduled for this spring.This new fund, called the Regional College/Returning Student Scholarship, will award scholarships to returning students pursuing a certificate or a two-year-degree at a regional college.“Education is for everyone,” said Clare Webber, chair of the regional college/returning student subcommittee. “We are very excited to provide a new type of scholarship that will include nontraditional students, a student demographic that continues to grow.“This new scholarship opportunity is something our donors have been asking for, and we feel the time is right to broaden the scholarship’s appeal,” continued Webber.Applicants must:

- be residents of the seven-county area of Northern New Mexico
- hold a high school diploma or GED

- have been accepted into or be currently pursuing a certificate or a two-year degree.

Applicants who, for any number of reasons, were not pursuing a formal education for two years or more before deciding to return to school will be given preference. Preference may also be given to students enrolled in programs related to science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and similar areas of study, although strong applications in any program area will be considered.Similar to other LAESF scholarships, selection will be based primarily on merit. However, because the focus is on returning students, there will be a greater emphasis on initiative, motivation, and accomplishments and less on grade-point averages or test results.Scholarships will consist of one-year grants of $1,000. Applicants can reapply yearly while they complete the certificate or two-year degree if they remain in good academic standing, and they are making progress toward completion.Information on the application process and how to donate to the scholarship is on the LANL Foundation's website at www.lanlfoundation.org. Los Alamos National Security, LLC will match contributions made by Lab employees.

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