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County to Proclaim June as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Fund Month

Hundreds of Hillsborough County high school graduates have had an opportunity to pursue a higher education, thanks in part to the generosity of county employees. In honor of their commitment to enhance the educational aspirations of local students, the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners will proclaim June as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund Month. The Commissioners plan to recognize the contributions made by participating county employees during their June 6 Board Meeting, beginning at 9 a.m. in the 2nd floor boardroom of County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd. in Tampa.

In 1988, the county's employees established the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund to commemorate the life and legacy of the slain civil rights leader. Since that time, more than 400 deserving students - regardless of race, creed or color - have received more than \$500,000 made possible through voluntary payroll deductions and fundraisers.

City of Tampa employees joined the effort in 1992 to provide more than 20 academic scholarships yearly to area students. Each award, worth \$1,000, is given based on academic achievement, financial need and community service. Today, support for the scholarship fund has grown to include contributions from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department.

For more information about the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund, contact Joyce Russell, African American Liaison, at 276-2637.