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German foundation continues support for CMS

CHARLOTTE, N.C., Oct. 8, 2009 – Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools students have already received more than \$34,000 in financial support and scholarships from the German government and the German Language and Culture Foundation. Tomorrow, the Charlotte-based foundation will help again.

CMS Superintendent Dr. Peter Gorman will accept a \$5,000 donation from the foundation for Smith Academy of International Languages' German immersion program. The Hon. Henry Tesch, the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern State Minister for Culture, Education and Science, will present the check at a Jazz in the Village fundraiser reception at the Hilton Charlotte Center City (Graves Room), 222 East Third Street, from 5:40 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Oct. 9.

Smith Academy is the only CMS school that offers a full German immersion program. The 317 students in the program from kindergarten through eighth grades receive math, science and reading instruction in German. Co-curricular courses such as art, music, physical education, literacy and library/media science are offered in English. German language instructional materials meet the North Carolina Standard Course of Study requirements. Smith Academy also has a partnership with Visiting International Faculty to recruit bilingual native-speakers to teach in the German, French, Japanese, Chinese and Spanish language-immersion programs. The foundation donated \$5,000 last year to Smith Academy for new instructional materials and staff-development opportunities for teachers.

Twelve CMS high schools offer German-language programs and 806 students are enrolled in German I through German VI (including in Advance Placement and International Baccalaureate courses). Last year, 30 students were enrolled in AP German V and all of those students scored a three or higher on their AP exams. CMS has 14 certified high school German teachers.

Earlier this year, the foundation donated \$7,250 in scholarships for five CMS high school students to study abroad in Germany. Kristen Austin of Hopewell High, Miller Morrow of Myers Park High, and Josh Haynes, Hayden Knight and Parker McGinnis of Mallard Creek High were awarded

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the scholarships to study in Germany with various programs and organizations through CMS's study abroad program. Austin, Haynes, Knight and McGinnis will attend tomorrow's Jazz in the Village reception and will talk to event attendees about their study-abroad experiences. Morrow is currently in Germany for the fall 2009 semester.

The foundation also worked with the CMS global studies, world languages and study abroad programs to develop an exchange agreement between CMS and schools in Berlin.

"Our ongoing partnership with the German Language and Culture Foundation demonstrates how community support enhances education and the opportunities we provide students to ensure they are globally competitive," said Kelly Price, director of global studies and world languages for CMS. "We greatly appreciate the help and support from the foundation."

Dr. Gorman, Price and the students will be available for interviews immediately after the check presentation.

[Click here](#) to learn more about CMS' language-immersion programs. [Click here](#) for more information on the district's study-abroad opportunities. [Click here](#) for more information on the German Language and Culture Foundation.

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