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For Immediate Release
December 19, 2012

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**New JLI Scholarship Will Provide Mentoring and Financial Assistance
for Local High School Juniors**

The 2012-13 Jefferson Leadership Institute (JLI) class, in partnership with the Northern New York Community Foundation, announces the creation of a new scholarship fund for high school juniors in Jefferson County who are able to demonstrate a sincere commitment to local civic engagement. The award will consist of a full year of mentorship by alumni of the JLI program and financial assistance for postsecondary education. The number of scholarships awarded as well as the amount of money awarded each year will be subject to funds raised by the JLI participants. Says JLI participant Elizabeth C. Quencer, "Our goal is to raise enough money over the next six months for us to be in a position to award several \$1,000 scholarships annually, but we guarantee that at least one scholarship in an amount of no less than \$500 will be awarded this year."

The scholarship applications will be made available to Jefferson County high school guidance counselors in February, and the application deadline will be April 1. Recipients will be announced in May. The mentoring component of the scholarship will take place during the recipients' senior year, and recipients will receive their financial award shortly before their first semester of college.

The Community Foundation enthusiastically endorses this initiative and is honored to work with the JLI class to make its idea a reality. "Education has always been part of our core mission. When you combine that with an opportunity to strengthen our potential future workforce, it provides a multiplier effect. It is a proactive move to increase the chance that talented young people will choose to return here after furthering their education," says Rande S. Richardson, Community Foundation executive director.

The Community Foundation will be accepting tax-deductible donations for the JLI scholarship indefinitely starting today. Checks can be made payable to the Northern New York Community Foundation and sent to the Foundation's office at 120 Washington Street, Suite 400, Watertown, New York 13601. "JLI Scholarship" should be written on the memo line.

Founded in 1991, the Jefferson Leadership Institute is an annual leadership development program run by the Greater Watertown-North Country Chamber of Commerce that fosters civic engagement through educational workshops and service projects. Since 1929, the Northern New York Community Foundation has been working with donors and community organizations to enhance the quality of life for the residents of Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties.

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