

St. Petersburg Times Fund, Inc. to provide \$240,000 to Barnes Scholars

Tampa Bay, FL – February 22, 2011 – The *St. Petersburg Times* Fund, Inc. has selected two students from Pinellas County and two from Hillsborough County as winners of the 2011 Barnes Scholarships. The students are eligible to each receive up to \$15,000 annually for four years at an accredited U.S. college or university.

The 2011 Barnes Scholars are **Fedner Lauture** (St. Petersburg High School in Pinellas), **Kelsey McDonald** (Alonso High School in Hillsborough), **Tuba Sahiti** (Northeast High School in Pinellas), and **Roberto Villalba** (Gaither High School in Hillsborough).

The scholarships target college-bound high school seniors who have overcome significant obstacles in their lives yet were committed to academic achievement and community service.

They were selected from a pool of 367 applicants from public and private high schools in Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough and Manatee counties. The four Barnes Scholars were among 10 finalists. The six runnersup each will receive a one-time \$1,000 award. They are R.J. Anderson (Ridgewood High School in Pasco), Fatima Kamara (Freedom High School in Hillsborough), Colleen Pulawski (Springstead High School in Hernando), Andre Revell (St. Petersburg High School in Pinellas), Bradley Sykes (H.B. Plant High School in Hillsborough and Benjamin Willis (Plant City High School in Hillsborough).

The scholarship was established in 1999 by the *St. Petersburg Times* Fund, which is the not-for-profit philanthropic arm of the *Times*. The scholarships are named after Andrew Barnes, retired chairman and CEO of the *Times*.

About the *St. Petersburg Times* Fund, Inc.

Paul Poynter, who bought the newspaper in 1912, believed in being a leader in giving to worthy local projects. His son Nelson followed his example, giving back generously to the communities that supported his enterprises. Since Nelson Poynter's death in 1978, his successors have continued in that tradition of philanthropy through grants for community projects and through scholarships for high school and college students.

In January 2003, the Times Publishing Company placed all of its philanthropy under the umbrella of the *St. Petersburg Times* Fund, Inc. The Fund, a 501(c)3, distributes money through scholarships and grants. For more information, visit www.tampabay.com/fund.