

**REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION AT NEW PALTZ  
NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release (June 22, 2010):**

**\*\*DIGITAL COLOR IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST\*\***

Contact: Christine Crawfis  
Director of Marketing & Communications  
New Paltz Regional Chamber of Commerce  
257 Main Street, New Paltz, NY 12561  
(845) 255-0243  
[christine@newpaltzchamber.org](mailto:christine@newpaltzchamber.org)  
[www.newpaltzchamber.org](http://www.newpaltzchamber.org)

**Regional Chamber of Commerce Foundation at New Paltz Awards  
Two \$3,000 in Scholarships and Special Merit Awards**

(*New Paltz, NY*) – The **Regional Chamber of Commerce Foundation at New Paltz** is pleased to announce that **Nikki Koenig Nielson** and **Stephen Delarede**, both of New Paltz, are the recipients of the **Foundation's 2010 Educational Scholarships**, and that **Mairead Fogarty** of Highland and **Taylor LaForge** of Walkkill are the recipients of the **Foundation's 2010 Special Merit Awards**. The two \$1,000 scholarships and two \$500 awards are presented in recognition of individuals who have had a positive impact their communities and are pursuing a post-secondary degree. All New Paltz Regional Chamber of Commerce members, their employees and their immediate families are eligible to apply.

Nielson, Delarede and Fogarty accepted their awards at the **New Paltz Regional Chamber of Commerce June Business Luncheon** on Wednesday, June 16 at the DuBois Fort Visitor Center, **Historic Huguenot Street**, New Paltz. LaForge accepted her award the following day. The luncheon was sponsored by **Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corp.** and featured guest speaker **Eric Roth, executive director of Historic Huguenot Street**.

Entering her second year at Albany Law School, **Nikki Koenig Nielson's** journey began as a member of the Teach for America Corps, where she was inspired to learn how to use her abilities to attack the problem of educational inequity. She went on to earn a Masters Degree in Politics

(more)

**Regional Chamber of Commerce Foundation at New Paltz Awards Educational Scholarships • Page 2 of 3**

and Education from Columbia University Teaching College and began to understand the basic connection between education, community, environment and economy. Her current focus upon land use, property and contract law reflects this understanding. In her first year of Law School, Nikki's placed in the top 7% of her class. She has served on the steering committee of New Paltz Greenworks since it was formed in 2007, serving the New Paltz community by providing recycling opportunities, educating the public and making it easier for people to make a sustainable difference. Along with husband Michael Nielson, Nikki's business **Arcady Tractorworks and Arborculture** is a proud member of the New Paltz Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Entering the College of Saint Rose in the fall as a freshman, **Stephen Delarede** will major in Bioengineering, with the ultimate goal of the acquisition of Doctor of Pharmacy degree and entering the workforce with the skills required to help the sick and the injured. A dedicated student and decorated athlete, Stephen lettered in Swimming and Tennis at New Paltz high school—serving as captain on both teams—and participated in Peer Leadership and French Club, as well as serving in the Student Government and volunteering for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. On behalf of the Regional Chamber of Commerce Foundation at New Paltz, it is my pleasure to present this 2010 Educational Scholarship to Stephen Delarede. Stephen's mother, Stacey Delarede, is an employee of the **Town of New Paltz**, a proud member of the New Paltz Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Entering Cortland State University as a freshman this fall in pursuit of a degree in Health Education, **Mairead Fogarty** plans to use her education to change the way people think about disease and abuse, inspired by mission trips to the Appalachian region. Mairead has been active in sports (lettering in cross-country running and skiing, swimming and track), music (attending NYSSMA adjudication for voice and violin and participating in Area All State Choir and All County Orchestra), and dance (as a member of the New Paltz High School Swing and Salsa Club), as well as the Capuchin Youth and Family Ministries. Mairead is an employee of **Masseo Landscaping**, a proud member of the New Paltz Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Entering her final semester at Orange County Community College, **Taylor LaForge** plans to graduate this fall with an associate's degree in Liberal Arts. Because of her experience working with the Brittany Miller Foundation, providing financial and emotional support to families struck by pediatric cancer, Taylor plans to further her education by pursuing a four-year degree in Human Services and enter the social service sector. Taylor's mother, Susan LaForge, is an employee of the **Times Herald-Record**, a proud member of the New Paltz Regional Chamber of Commerce.

*(more)*

## **Regional Chamber of Commerce Foundation at New Paltz Awards Educational Scholarships • Page 3 of 3**

The office of the Regional Chamber of Commerce Foundation at New Paltz is located at the New Paltz Regional Chamber of Commerce. The New Paltz Regional Chamber of Commerce, with more than 700 members, is an active and trusted voice in the regional business and residential community, advancing the business, industrial, agricultural and civic interests of the Mid-Hudson Valley Region. It also responds to an estimated 22,000 requests and visits from tourists each year from its offices and Visitor Center, located at 257 Main St. in New Paltz.

Members and visitors are welcome at the Chamber's Visitor Center. For more information about the Regional Chamber of Commerce Foundation at New Paltz or the New Paltz Regional Chamber of Commerce, including Visitor's Center hours of operation, visit [www.newpaltzchamber.org](http://www.newpaltzchamber.org), call (845) 255-0243 or e-mail [info@newpaltzchamber.org](mailto:info@newpaltzchamber.org).

###