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Schools Offer Free Tuition To Children of the Victims

By KAREN W. ARENSON

Five New York area universities said yesterday that they planned to provide scholarships for dependents of victims in last week's attacks.

Schools that are making such offers include Rutgers, Columbia, Long Island University and the city and state universities of New York. In some cases, the universities said they would cover full tuition, room and board.

Rutgers said it would provide full-tuition undergraduate scholarships to dependent children of all New Jersey residents who lost their lives in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"It is education and good works that ultimately will provide the only effective antidote to the poison of hatred and violence," said Francis L. Lawrence, president of Rutgers.

Columbia said it would establish a scholarship fund for children of victims, although it is still working out the scope of the program, how it will be financed, and other details.

Officials at SUNY and CUNY said they would introduce plans to create full scholarships, as Gov. George E. Pataki has urged. The plan would cover dependents of all victims, not just New Yorkers.

Mr. Pataki said he would propose legislation providing state support for full scholarships — covering room, board, tuition and other costs — at the state's two public universities, and similar sums for family members of victims if they attend private universities in New York.

Other campuses that have already made scholarship offers include New York University and Keuka College, a school with about 1,000 students in the Finger Lakes region of New York.

Gov. John G. Rowland of Connecticut proposed that Connecticut children who lost a parent or guardian in last week's attacks be educated free at a state college.

Long Island University said that it would provide scholarships for current students whose parents or spouses were killed in the attack, and create scholarships named after students who were lost in the attack. The university said that at least three of its students who worked in the trade center are missing.

Some universities have created special scholarship funds. Polytechnic University, based in Brooklyn, has established a $1 million memorial scholarship fund for dependents of fire and police personnel who died or are missing in the attack.

Fordham University said that in response to alumni who wish to make donations, it also plans to create a memorial fund for family members of victims of last week's attacks and other tragedies.

Earlier this week, New York University announced that Martin Lipton, the chairman of New York University's Board of Trustees, and his law firm, Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, were establishing a $5 million scholarship fund at N.Y.U. for dependents of the firefighters, police officers and emergency medical services personnel who lost their lives at the World Trade Center. Institutions outside of New York are also trying to help. Harvard University will donate $1 million in scholarship assistance for the children and spouses of victims of last week's events to attend colleges and universities across the country.

And the United States Department of Education announced that it has directed lenders who hold federal student loans to provide relief from monthly loan payments to borrowers affected by the terrorist attacks. Borrowers who live or work in the New York City national disaster area will be allowed to postpone or reduce their monthly payments through January 2002. Borrowers outside the area but who were affected by any of the terrorist attacks and hijackings will also be granted relief.

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