



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jean Heyer
Minneapolis Community & Technical College
612-659-6222
jean.heyer@minneapolis.edu

Katy Hendrickson
Burson-Marsteller
312-596-3430
katy.hendrickson@bm.com

**MERRILL LYNCH SPONSORS 10 SCHOLARSHIPS, VOLUNTEER NETWORK
FOR MINNEAPOLIS COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

MINNEAPOLIS, March 24, 2008 – Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC) is pleased to announce that the Minneapolis offices of Merrill Lynch will fund two-year scholarships for 10 Minneapolis and St. Paul high school students through the “Power of YOU,” a program that grants students the opportunity to go to college tuition-free. In addition to funding these scholarships, Merrill Lynch will also support MCTC’s new Volunteer Network, a new initiative to reach out and tap the community’s expertise and volunteering generosity.

The MCTC scholarships and Volunteer Network sponsorship are driven by the local Merrill Lynch Responsible Citizenship Committee. This employee-driven committee supports philanthropic and volunteer programs in the Twin Cities to improve educational opportunities for young people who dream of attending college, but do not have the financial means.

“Merrill Lynch is honored to be affiliated with the Power of YOU program,” said Doug King, Managing Director of Merrill Lynch’s Minneapolis complex. “We are proud that our Minneapolis advisors continue their dedication in encouraging local students to remain committed to academic achievement.”

The Power of YOU is a collaboration among MCTC, Saint Paul College, Metropolitan State University, non-profit organizations, private foundations, private companies, school districts and community-based organizations. This joint effort opens the doors to a college education for all Minneapolis and St. Paul high school students by providing free college tuition and student support services. More than 75 percent of Power of YOU participants in the first year cohort are students of color with a median family income of less than \$30,000.

About MCTC

MCTC is the most ethnically diverse college in Minnesota. Students speak more than 80 languages; 43 percent are students of color and 30 percent are the first in their family to attend college. A member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System, MCTC offers students a comprehensive liberal arts curriculum and more than 60 career and occupational programs designed to prepare people for good jobs in high demand professions. Located in downtown Minneapolis, MCTC enrolls more than 11,000 students annually and is an active partner in initiatives to strengthen the social, economic and cultural vitality of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. For more information about MCTC or the Power of YOU, please visit www.minneapolis.edu

About Merrill Lynch

Merrill Lynch is one of the world's leading wealth management, capital markets and advisory companies, with offices in 40 countries and territories and total client assets of almost \$2 trillion. As an investment bank, it is a leading global trader and underwriter of securities and derivatives across a broad range of asset classes and serves as a strategic advisor to corporations, governments, institutions and individuals worldwide. Merrill Lynch owns approximately half of BlackRock, one of the world's largest publicly traded investment management companies, with more than \$1 trillion in assets under management. For more information on Merrill Lynch, please visit www.ml.com.

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