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NEWS RELEASE

Agricultural Scholarships Established

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

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FAYETTEVILLE, NC – Two scholarships have been established for Cumberland County high school students interested in agricultural careers. The Cumberland County Farm Bureau has named the scholarships in memory of two Cumberland County Agricultural Hall of Fame members.

The J. McNatt Gillis Memorial Scholarship and the Gordon M. Williams Scholarship will each be awarded to a Cumberland County high school student who plans to study agriculture in either a four-year land grant university or a community college. The scholarships are each worth \$1,000 and are endowed by the Cumberland County Farm Bureau and managed by the Cumberland Community Foundation Inc. The scholarships' first recipients are expected to be announced in May 2012.

“It is a wonderful gesture that the farmers in Cumberland County are reaching out to the young people, helping them go to college to learn more about agriculture so they can bring that knowledge back to Cumberland County,” said Mary Holmes, executive director of the Cumberland Community Foundation.

The late J. McNatt Gillis was a farmer and the secretary-treasurer of the Cumberland County Farm Bureau for approximately 40 years. He was also a longtime Cumberland County commissioner.

The late Gordon M. Williams was president of the Cumberland County Farm Bureau for nearly two decades and was active in all aspects of farming and community service. Williams lived in Godwin and helped found the Godwin-Falcon Volunteer Fire Department.

“Both of these gentlemen were very compassionate people who loved and were dedicated to their family, community, state and country,” said Sherrill Jernigan, president of the Cumberland County Farm Bureau.

For more information, call 483-4449 or go online to <http://www.cumberlandcf.org>.

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