



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Lela announces scholarship winner in Financial Aid Awareness Month “Cash for College” essay contest**

Airline High School student’s essay wins him \$1,000 college scholarship

BATON ROUGE— Robert “Robbie” Dean, a 2008 graduate of Airline High School in Bossier City, won a \$1,000 scholarship from the Louisiana Education Loan Authority after submitting a winning essay in the organization’s annual “Cash for College Essay Contest.”

The annual contest was held in February as part of Financial Aid Awareness Month (FAAM), when Lela launched a statewide outreach campaign. The FAAM campaign included providing information to students and parents about financial aid options ranging from scholarships to reduced cost student loans, as well as how to apply for federal and state programs. High school seniors who competed in the annual contest wrote and submitted essays to Lela about how they plan to finance their college education. Three students were selected to receive \$1,000 scholarships for writing the best essays.

Robbie, who is the son of Stephana and Bud Dean, is set to attend Tulane University and plans to double major in political science and Spanish.

Robbie is active in the Bossier City community. He serves on the youth council of the community theatre and is youth president of the Asbury United Methodist Church. During Hurricane Katrina, Robbie spent over 200 community service hours helping those who were affected by the devastating storm.

“Lela is proud to award this scholarship to such a young, bright and deserving student,” said Christie Smith, Lela Marketing Representative. “Robbie wrote an excellent essay and Lela is pleased to help him pursue his education at Tulane University. We wish him the best of luck.”

Interested persons can learn more about student loans and other financial aid options by contacting Lela at (800) 228-4755 or visiting the Lela website at [www.lela.org](http://www.lela.org). The site includes extensive information for college bound students and many links regarding financial assistance for college.

Lela is a division of the Louisiana Public Facilities Authority, a nonprofit trust established to bring lower cost financing assistance and advantages to the citizens of Louisiana at no cost to the state. Lela acts as a low cost source of student loan financing for higher education. Lela has assisted over 365,000 students since 1984.



**Suggested Caption:** Christie Smith (right) of Louisiana Education Loan Authority (Lela), presents a ceremonial \$1,000 scholarship check to Robbie Dean and his parents Bud and Stephana Dean. Robbie Dean, who graduated from Airline High School in Bossier City, submitted a winning essay in Lela's Cash for College Essay Contest.

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