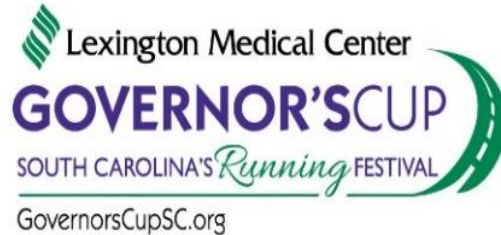


**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Future Scholar Sponsors Governor's Cup  
Main Street Mile & Kids Run**  
*Up to 1,000 Midlands Students to be Given Free Entry*

Columbia, South Carolina – April 3, 2017 – Russ Pate, Director of the Lexington Medical Center Governor's Cup Road Race, today announced a sponsorship agreement between the Governor's Cup and Future Scholar, South Carolina's 529 College Savings Plan. Future Scholar will serve as the presenting sponsor of the Main Street Mile & Kid's Run, one of three major components of the Governor's Cup. The Main Street Mile will take place in downtown Columbia on the evening of Friday, May 19. The Governor's Cup Half-Marathon and 5K Run and Walk are scheduled for the morning of Saturday, May 20. Future Scholar joins Lexington Medical Center and Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina as the major sponsors of the event.

Pate said, "We're thrilled to have Future Scholar join the Governor's Cup in promoting health and fitness in our community. We are particularly excited that the support provided by Future Scholar will enable us to expand our service to the children of the Greater Columbia area. This support will allow us to collaborate with schools and other youth service organizations in providing a large number of children with the opportunity to participate, at no cost, in the Governor's Cup Kid's Run. Our goal is to give as many children as possible an exciting, enjoyable experience with healthy physical activity. We are privileged to work with Lexington Medical Center, Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina, and now Future Scholar, in bringing to Central South Carolina a running event that contributes importantly to our region's cultural and economic vibrancy."

South Carolina Treasurer Curtis Loftis added, "Future Scholar is pleased to join an esteemed list of sponsors and to support the Main Street Mile & Kids Run. Doing so will not only encourage young children to get out and be active, but will provide free entry to as many as 1,000 Midlands students, future scholars in their own right. We encourage families and spectators to join us on the evening of Friday, May 19 and enjoy the excitement of the races conducted on Main Street."

**Background on the Governor's Cup Road Race:** First conducted in 1973, the Governor's Cup is the State of South Carolina's oldest continuously operating running event. It is the largest participation running event in the Greater Columbia area. The Governor's Cup is organized by the

Carolina Marathon Association, a non-profit organizations that has been conducting major running events in Columbia since 1977. The organization has sponsored and produced numerous national running events including the 1996 and 2000 U.S. Olympic Trials Women's Marathon. The Carolina Marathon Association also conducts the annual Heart & Sole Women's 5-Miler.

**Background on Future Scholar:** Launched in 2002, Future Scholar has achieved tremendous growth in just 15 years, helping families in the state and across the nation save for college. Highlights of Future Scholar's 15-year growth include:

- Total number of accounts has increased from 9,800 in 2002 to over 134,000 in 2017
- Total assets have grown from \$81 million in 2002 to \$2.7 billion in 2017

“As it reaches its 15-year milestone, Future Scholar is not only bigger, it's better. In addition to the program's exceptional growth, Future Scholar has one of the best state tax deductions of any 529 plan in the country, and our Financial Literacy Program, launched in 2015, has benefited more than 12,000 students in South Carolina,” said South Carolina Treasurer Curtis Loftis. “I am proud of the work we have done to enhance this program during the seven years I have been in office. Seeing Future Scholar become so successful by helping families save for college is one of my greatest accomplishments as State Treasurer.”

For more information on the Future Scholar 529 College Savings Plan, visit [www.futurescholar.com](http://www.futurescholar.com), [www.treasurer.sc.gov](http://www.treasurer.sc.gov), or follow on Facebook: @SCStateTreasurer.

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