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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOUR MISSISSIPPI STUDENTS AWARDED FIRST NISSAN SCHOLARSHIPS

CANTON, Miss. – Four students were recognized as the first Nissan Scholarship Program recipients today at a press conference at the Nissan Training Center in Canton. Governor Ronnie Musgrove, Robert J. Rohrlack, Jr., executive director of the Mississippi Development Authority, Dr. Tom Layzell, commissioner of higher education, Institutions of Higher Learning, and Emil Hassan, senior vice president of North American Manufacturing, Purchasing, Quality, and Logistics for Nissan North America, were among the well-wishers.

“These young Mississippians have shown academic achievement, leadership ability and a clear purpose for their careers,” said Governor Musgrove. “We are proud of their accomplishments, and look for them to be among the future leaders of our great state.”

“We are very proud of these young people and what they mean to the state of Mississippi,” said Emil Hassan. “These students represent the future of this great state, and it’s exciting to realize that our company will play a role in their education.”

The 2002 Nissan Scholarship recipients are Javier J. Calderon, Arlecia L. Hudson, LaRea E. McWilliams, and Karolina Sarnowska. Calderon, of Madison-Ridgeland Academy, plans to attend the University of Southern Mississippi and study psychology or biology. Hudson, of Canton High School, will attend Jackson State University and major in social work. McWilliams, of Ruleville, MS, will graduate from the Mississippi School for Math & Science in Columbus, and will attend Mississippi State University to major in education. Sarnowska, of Diamondhead, MS, will graduate from Hancock High School in Kiln, and will study engineering at Mississippi State University.

“This is one more benefit of our partnership with Nissan North America,” said Mississippi Development Authority executive director Robert J. Rohrlack. “We look for our continued relationship with Nissan to positively impact Mississippi and its citizens.”

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Each of the scholarship winners met eligibility requirements that included academic achievement, leadership ability, career goals that support the automotive industry and financial need. The scholarship will cover the cost of full tuition, fees and books. Students must attend a college or university in Mississippi and maintain a 2.5 or better grade point average.

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