



**For more information, contact:**  
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**For Immediate Release**

***Recent College Grads Eligible for \$2,500 Award***

**Ferguson, Missouri:** College Graduates nationwide from the classes of 2008-2010 are eligible for a special Graduation Gift from the Ferguson Neighborhood Improvement Program (FNIP). In order to apply for the program a graduate must have a completed a bachelor, master, or doctoral level degree.

This year, the Graduation Gift is being offered to two college graduates. The gift is a grant of \$2,500 that may be applied toward the purchase of a home in Ferguson. The gift can be used as a part of the down payment, closing costs or for rehabilitation and repairs to the property. Qualified applicants must be prequalified for home purchase, and must be already working with a realtor, and/or have a home under contract. The gifts are sponsored by FNIP and UMB Bank of St. Louis.

The recipients will have six months from notification to spend or at least encumber the funds. The FNIP Director may extend the six-month deadline to use the funds if it is determined that the recipient is making sufficient progress toward purchasing a home.

Ferguson's proximity to large corporations like Boeing, Emerson Electric, and Express Scripts make it an attractive location to own a home. Additional benefits include the University of Missouri-St. Louis and St. Louis Community College Florissant Valley, and the affordability of homes in the north county region of St. Louis. The city offers small town charm with diverse neighborhoods and a vibrant, thriving downtown business district.

Interested graduates should go to **[www.fergusoncity.com](http://www.fergusoncity.com)** to download an application and return it by mail, along with a copy of their college transcript, to: **Ferguson City Hall, ATTN: Director, FNIP, 110 Church Street, Ferguson, MO, 63135.**

The gifts will be awarded on a first-come first-serve basis until no funds remain.

For more information about the FNIP Graduation Gift program, please call Natasha Ramey, community development coordinator, at (314) 524-5196.

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***Proud Past. Promising Future.*** The City of Ferguson, located in suburban north St. Louis County, is home to more than 22,000 residents, the world headquarters of Emerson Electric, and St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley. A city with small town charm, diverse neighborhoods, and a vibrant, thriving downtown business district, Ferguson is just minutes from the University of Missouri, St. Louis, and St. Louis-Lambert International Airport. Ferguson is conveniently accessed on its north side by Interstate 270 and on its south side by Interstate 70. For more information about Ferguson, please visit our Web site at: [www.fergusoncity.com](http://www.fergusoncity.com).

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