As part of a generous $5 million gift from the Geoffrey Beene Foundation in 2007, the CFDA was able to establish the Geoffrey Beene Design Scholarship, funded with half of the donation from the Foundation. This gift will generously expand the CFDA’s core scholarship program, significantly increasing CFDA educational grants, and fund the establishment of the merit-based $25,000 Geoffrey Beene Design Scholar Award starting in 2008.

This prestigious new design award program will bring the work of the legendary American fashion designer Geoffrey Beene into classrooms of the country's leading design colleges and universities. A specialized teaching curriculum designed for the GEOFFREY BEENE DESIGN SCHOLARSHIP program will challenge students to look beyond conforming to trends and the practicality of business in order to advance the art form.

This supplemental design competition will identify the most exemplary, innovative women's wear design student based on specific guidelines. Only the top two (2) junior students from each of the participating schools will be invited to submit a portfolio for consideration.

The GEOFFREY BEENE DESIGN SCHOLAR will receive $25,000 to help defray senior year tuition and educational expenses. This competitive award will be based solely on merit as judged by a prestigious panel of industry experts. The winner and the scholarship will be officially announced and presented at the annual CFDA Fashion Awards.