



NEWSLETTER

JULY 2017

SUPPORTING THE INTERESTS OF AAFES, ITS RETIREES AND THE PEOPLE IT SERVES

Congratulations to our 2017 AREA Scholarship Awardees!

A total of \$29,000 was awarded to these nine graduating high school seniors. We gave one \$5,000 and eight \$3,000 awards. Congratulations to all of this year's scholarship recipients!



Jessica Scheer -\$5,000



Emily Cantwell -\$3,000



Shane Boettiger -\$3,000



Tylar Walker—\$3,000



Josh Saunders—\$3,000



Mark Malcolm—\$3,000



Olivia Martins—\$3,000



Sienna Deerhake—\$3,000



Joleen Aulgur—\$3,000

See pages 5 through 7 for details on these fine young people who have a lot to smile about! Also, see pages 7 and 8 for a yearly summary by Michelle Priester, AREA Scholarship Program Director

Scholarship Awardees (continued from page 1)



Jessica Scheer, the daughter of **David and Pamela Scheer**, received the top AREA scholarship of \$5,000 for outstanding academic achievement and community involvement. She will enter college this fall seeking a Chemical Engineering degree. While attending Midlothian Heritage High School Jessica was the President of the Student Council, Vice President of the National Honor Society, and a member of the award-winning cheerleading squad. She also tutored students in algebra and chemistry. She has been accepted into the Honors College at the University of Alabama.

Editor’s Note: We received the following comments from **Dr. Jim Skibo**, one of the AREA Scholarship Evaluation Committee members, who personally presented Jessica with her scholarship award. Jim is currently the SVP, Business Development.

Presenting an academic scholarship at the high school level was an honor for me and one I shall not forget. How exciting it was to see the very best students in the high school receive top academic honors. I had the expectation that the audience would be comprised of mostly the parents of those receiving awards and other academic honors, but it was heartening to see most of the Midlothian Texas, Heritage High School senior class come and support their peers. When we review the portfolios of applicants for the AREA scholarship, there is always the lingering doubt if we truly choose the right person for our top honor. Because of our name “AAFES”, we were first alphabetically to present. The AREA scholarship for \$5,000 was not only the first presented but also the largest single scholarship received by any of the students. However, it was not the only honor for Jessica. As the evening progressed, Jessica made many more trips to the stage and one of those included a full four-year academic scholarship to the University of Alabama. In total, Jessica received well over \$130,000 in scholarship support. Did the AREA scholarship committee make the right choice....a resounding “YES”.



Emily Cantwell, the daughter of **Donald and Shelly Cantwell**, received a \$3,000 scholarship. She plans to major in theater at the Honors College, Harding University, Arkansas. Emily maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout high school. She received the Presidential Service Award three times, the American Heritage Girls Honor Troop Award, and performed in numerous musicals and plays.



Shane Boettiger, a \$3,000 scholarship recipient, is the son of **Keith and Diana Boettiger**. He is a member of the National Honor Society, an Eagle Scout, plays the saxophone, and is the drum major of the Legacy High School band. Shane will major in Medical Laboratory Sciences at University of North Texas, Denton.

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Scholarship Awardees (continued from page 5)

Tylar Walker is the daughter of **Todd and Brandy Walker**. She was awarded a \$3,000 scholarship. She is a store associate at Fort Belvoir. Tylar was on the AB Honor Roll and is a member of the National Society of High School Scholars, National Art Honor Society, the JV and Varsity swim and dive teams, JV crew, and worked on the yearbook. She will be attending Northern Virginia community college.



Josh Saunders is the son of **Greg and Beth Saunders** and a \$3,000 scholarship awardee. A member of the National Honor Society, he plans to major in Chemical Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin. He is the president of the Speech and Debate Club and a member of Science Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and the JV tennis team.

We received this thank you note from **Josh Saunders, one of this year's awardees:**

Thank you for selecting me, Josh Saunders, as a 2017 AAFES Retired Employees Scholarship Recipient I'll be studying Engineering at the University of Texas in the fall and appreciate this assistance. Studying the sciences has become an interest of mine and I can't wait to get started. Thank you for this honor. As requested, I will contact Michelle Priester concerning the details of this generous award.

Thank you for supporting AAFES families with these opportunities. You make such a difference - thank you!

Sincerely,

Josh Saunders



Olivia Martins is the daughter of **George and Karen Martins** and recipient of a \$3,000 award. She is a member of the National Honor Society, and the Creative Writing and Spanish clubs, the swim team, and the student council. Olivia plans to attend University of Southern Mississippi.

Sienna Deerhake, the daughter of **Mike and Naomi Deerhake**, received a \$3,000 scholarship. She is a member of National Honor Society, marching band, pit orchestra, and the Japanese Art and Culture Club. Sienna is biology major who plans to attend Ohio State University in the fall.



Story continues on next page.

Scholarship Awardees (continued from page 6)



Joleen Aulgur is the daughter of **Frederick and Daniela Aulgur** and a \$3,000 scholarship winner. She is a marine biology major and plans to attend Texas A&M in Galveston. Joleen took second place in the German State Competition in Extemporaneous Speaking. She was in Key Club and National Honor Society. She is the co-president and co-founded of the photography club and worked on the school newspaper.



Mark Malcolm, the son of **Mark Malcolm and Roberta Cores-Malcolm**, received a \$3,000 scholarship. He will be a chemistry major at New York University. Mark has been an Exchange cashier for six months at Hill AFB. He is a member of National Honor Society, National Society of High School Scholars, the National Hispanic Recognition Program, JV tennis team, and Varsity cross-country and soccer.

2017 AREA Scholarship Program

Since 1985 AREA has provided educational opportunities to “AAFES Kids” through its scholarship program. **This year AREA awarded \$29,000 in scholarships to nine graduating high school seniors. Amounts were one \$5,000 and eight \$3,000 awards.**

2017 marks the 28th anniversary of the AREA scholarship program: the only program designed to directly benefit children of active or retired associates, and assigned military’s children. To date AREA has provided \$715,795 in scholarship awards to 337 deserving students – many of whom may not have even started college without the AREA boost. Now that is something we should all be proud of!



So how does the program work? Here’s a short synopsis:

The program is limited to graduating high school seniors. General, Personal and Student Academic criteria, as well as scholarship applications, are listed on the AREA web site at <http://www.aafes.com/about-exchange/retired-employees-association/community-programs/scholarships.htm>. The same site sets out the specific requirements for making application, e.g., application period, minimum SAT and ACT scores, etc.

Applications must be sent to the scholarship committee during the designated enrollment period – January 1 through March 31 of each year.

The AREA administers the program through an appointed AREA Scholarship Program Director. Committee members lay out the parameters of the program each year, which are ultimately approved by the AREA board of directors.

Michelle Priester
AREA Scholarship Program Director