

AAFES Retired Employees Association (AREA) 2015 Scholarship Program

This year AREA awarded 18 scholarships totaling \$49,000. Although the Board initially approved twelve scholarship awards earlier in the year, it was obvious during the evaluation process that there were **other** more deserving applicants. We received 45 applications this year, the second largest number in the history of the program. From that we had 29 qualifying applicants. **The Scholarship Committee asked the board to approve six additional \$1,500 awards. The board responded by adding \$9,000 to fund the additional scholarships. A brief recap of the deserving awardees' accomplishments and aspirations is shown on the next pages.**

I am proud to tell you that awards totaling \$673,295 have been made to 325 deserving students since the AREA scholarship program began in 1985.

This was another banner year for the AREA Scholarship Program. I attribute the high interest in the program to effective advertising and improved program visibility enhanced by key AAFES executives' endorsements. The bottom line is that the AREA Scholarship Program – The most visible program we have – is serving the AAFES community well and continues to give AREA positive vibes within that very community. I look forward to continued growth and continued goodwill.

Here's a brief description of how the program worked this year. First, each application was screened to assure minimum requirements were met. After meeting the "AAFES Employee, Son or Daughter" and minimum academic criteria, each application was given a unique number to track it as it moved through the process. The files were then sent to six scholarship committee members for review. Each member scored and ranked the files against five criteria: Academic honors and achievement, School Activities, Outside of School Activities, Letters of Recommendation and An Essay Themed "...Why I deserve this scholarship..." All scores were aggregated and an award roster finalized. After that, the roster and committee recommendations were forwarded to Chuck Poffenbarger, AREA President. Chuck, in turn, sent the packet to AREA BOD members for consideration. BOD members reviewed the recommendations and by vote approved the twelve basic and six additional awards. Chuck then sent scholarship notification letters to each recipient.

Applicant academic standing was exceptional again this year. All applicants, including those not meeting AREA's minimum scholarship requirements, should be proud knowing they reflect great credit on themselves and the families supporting them. Obviously I was impressed with the high quality of each applicant but more importantly, committee members were also impressed. This year the evaluation committee was again made up of volunteers taking time to apply exceptional judgment to the evaluation process. I personally thank **Jim Sawyer, Vivian Skalsky, Dr. Jim Skibo, Richard Sheff, Darryl Richards and Don Smith** for an outstanding effort again this year.

And finally, don't forget about next year. If you know a qualifying student entering his or her first college semester in the Fall of 2016, make sure **he/she reviews** our Scholarship Program requirements at: <http://www.aafes.com/about-exchange/retired-employees-association/>.

!!! AREA loves to award scholarships to deserving students !!!

Regards,



Thomas Gallagher
Director, AREA Scholarship Program

About AREA

AREA is an association of retired and active Exchange associates dedicated to the needs of its members, and to fostering friendships and associations made during their careers.

Here are some benefits that AREA provides its members:

- Publications written...just for you, and mailed to your home address. Our quarterly Newsletter covers news and events about former Exchange associates, information on benefits as an Exchange retiree and other information of particular interest to retirees and their families. A membership directory with email addresses published every three years allows you to keep up with your friends and former associates.
- Information on local chapters. Chapter activities include social functions, volunteer opportunities, and fund-raising events for worthy causes. Most chapters have monthly or quarterly luncheons where they review chapter activities and plan upcoming events. Chapter dues and policies are determined by local chapters, and any dues assessed are separate and apart from AREA dues.
- Participation in the Annual AREA Scholarship Program. This program has been going on for many years. This year, \$49,000 in scholarships was awarded to 18 children of Exchange Associates and assigned military personnel who were in their last year of high school. Exchange retirees and friends of AREA donate the money. Many of our local chapters have fund-raising events to provide money for this very worthwhile program. Since the inception of this program thru 1985, \$673,295 has been distributed for 325 scholarships.

Perhaps the most important reason for joining and being an active AREA member is the "intangible", i.e., staying in touch. After a long Exchange career, many of us still want to remain a part of the Exchange family. Today, AREA and its 17 chapters include 4,300 members and their families.

Visit our web site at <http://www.aafes.com/about-exchange/retired-employees-association/>

2015 AREA Scholarship Recipients

Samantha Amani Moon: Samantha, the daughter of Kenneth and Weslyn Moon, is the recipient of the 2015 Marilyn Iverson Memorial award. This \$5,000 endowment is given to the top AREA scholarship candidate for outstanding academic achievement and community involvement. She enters college this fall seeking a degree in Biomedical Engineering.



Samantha attended Booker T Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas Texas. While in high school, Samantha was a member of the National Society of High School Scholars, and a member of the National Honor Society. She was recognized with the National Academy of Future Physicians Award and the College Board AP Scholar Award. Samantha served on the Student Council and was a member of the National Organization of Women and was selected to participate in the highly prestigious UT Southwest Medical Center's summer research program. Outside of the classroom, Samantha worked on a roofing crew with Habitat for Humanity

Kelsey Michele Rogers: Kelsey, the recipient of a \$5,000 AREA scholarship award, is the daughter of Darrin W. and Lisa M. Rogers. She enters college this fall pursuing a degree in International Business.



Kelsey attended Kubasaki High School in Okinawa where she distinguished herself with the Highest Academic Award in both Chemistry and Algebra and was editor of the school newspaper. In her spare time Kelsey tutored other students in Math and Chemistry. She was selected to represent her High School at the Harvard Model Congress and selected to attend the Far East Journalism Symposium. Kelsey distinguished herself in athletics as well: She was selected to captain of her volleyball team, was

recognized as a selectee to the All-Far East Volleyball Team and voted the Pacific Far East Volleyball MVP.

Erin Jamison Egan: Erin is the daughter of Brian D and Carol L Egan. Having been awarded a \$3,000 AREA Scholarship, Erin enters college this fall as a Business major.



During her time at Highland Park High School in Dallas, she was a member of the National Honor Society, was recognized as a College Board AP Scholar with Distinction and was a member of the National Honor Society in Spanish, English and Science. Erin was a member of the Highland Belles Dance and Drill Team and the secretary of the AP History club. Outside the class room Erin volunteered with the National Charity League and aided other students as a tutor. Erin also found time to volunteer at her church

as a Vacation Bible school teacher.

Christopher Lei: Christopher is the son of Michael Lei and I-Chen. He is the recipient of a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award. Christopher enters college this fall seeking a degree in Biology. Christopher spent his HS career at Arlington High School in Arlington, Texas. During his high school years, Christopher distinguished himself as a “National Merit Commended Student” and was recognized with the President’s Volunteer Service award. He was a member of the All-Region Full Orchestra and the All-State Symphony Orchestra.



Christopher also volunteered at the Arlington Hospital and volunteered at the Arlington Mission.

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Samuel H Ney: As Samuel enters college this fall he will be seeking a degree in Spanish. Samuel, the son of Amy L and Edwin D Ney III, received a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award.



In his time at Vicenza HS in Vicenza, Italy, Samuel was a member of the National Honor Society, was listed on the school's Honor Roll with Distinction and was selected as an Ambassador of the National Honor Society of High School Scholars. Samuel also played soccer at Vicenza HS: He was captain of the varsity team. Samuel was also a member the Defense Europe Language Institute and volunteered as a sports official with CYSS at both the unit and community levels.

Victoria Leigh Vandervort: Victoria, the daughter of John G and Connie Vandervort, received a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award. She intends to use that award to pursue a career in Nursing.



While at Martin HS in Arlington, Texas, Victoria was a member of the Key Club, was awarded the Education Flag of Learning & Liberty Wall of Fame, was inducted into the Woodrow Wilson Counts Chapter of the National Honor Society and was a Varsity cheerleader.

Kendall Martinson: As Kendall enters college this fall she will be seeking a degree in Biomedical Engineering. Kendall, the daughter of Shawn and Karen Martinson, received a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award.



In her time at Mansfield Legacy High School in Mansfield Texas, Kendall was a member of the National Honor Society, the Debate Team, the chess Club and the Key Club. Kendall also excelled athletically. She was captain of the swim team and was recognized with the All-American Athlete Award. Outside of the classroom Kendall volunteered with the "Feeding the Homeless" program, volunteered as a Kindergarten aid and volunteered in the Child Care program at his church.

Naomi Headrick: Naomi enters college this fall in pursuit of an Education degree.



Naomi, recipient of a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award, is the daughter of Larry M and Angela Headrick.

While attending Keller HS in Keller, Texas Naomi was recognized as an Advanced Placement Scholar and was a member of the

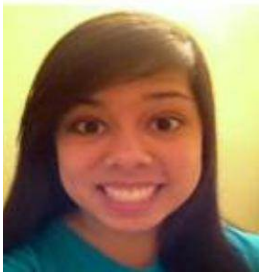
National Honor Society. She was listed on her school's Honor Roll and received the Leadership Award. Naomi was a member of the Keller High School Lady Royales drill team and a member of the Spanish Club. She was a Summer Vacation Bible School volunteer and found time to volunteer as a Spanish tutor for other students at Keller High School.

Christopher Michael Rogers II: Christopher is the son of Wallace L. Knight III and Cardiss Johnson. He is the recipient of a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award. Christopher enters college this fall seeking an Aerospace Engineering degree.



Christopher spent his HS career at Cedar Hill High School in Cedar Hill, Texas. During his time at Cedar Hill HS, he distinguished himself as an Academic Letterman and as a selectee to attend the Tarleton State University Summer Camp. Christopher was Captain of the Cedar Hill Engineering Team and was a member of the school swimming squad. Christopher also found time to volunteer as Camp Counselor at his church-sponsored summer program.

Chanelle Powell: Chanelle received a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award. As she embarks on her college career this fall, Chanelle intends to use that award to pursue a Biology degree.



Chanelle, the daughter of Sydney and Lucena Powell attended Earl Warren High School in San Antonio, Texas. While there, she was a member of the National Honor Society and a member of the National Spanish Honor Society and she was recognized for "Academic Excellence". Chanelle was a member of her HS orchestra, the "Future Physicians" club and Honor Guard. She volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and was active in her church where she was a Toddlers Small Group leader and a member of the First Impressions Team.

Joseph Raeburn Puryear III: As Joseph enters college this fall he will be seeking a degree in Engineering. Joseph, the son of Maria and Joseph Puryear Jr., received a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award.



In his time at Hanahan HS in Hanahan, SC, he was a member of the National Honor Society, belonged to the Science Club and Math Quest and was a member of the marching band. Joseph volunteered as a tutor to elementary school students and supported his community by participating in the "Walk for Water" program sponsored by the city of Charleston.

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Cayley Cantwell: Cayley, the recipient of a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award, is the daughter of Donald Cantwell. She enters college this fall pursuing a degree in Theatre.



Cayley was home schooled in Clarksville, TN. She distinguished herself onstage having performed in: “The Drudge, the Doll and the Diva”, “Of Fairytale Fame” and “Cinderella Gone Wrong”. Cayley was a member of the CHARA Homeschool Teen Group, the Homeschool Steering Committee, the Book Club and the Writer’s Club. Cayley was also active in her church where she volunteered as a Sunday school teacher’s assistant and nursery helper.

Samuel Charles Moore: Samuel, the son of Zachary and Kathleen Moore, received a \$1,500 AREA scholarship award. He intends to use that award to pursue a Business Marketing degree.



While at James Martin HS in Mansfield, Texas, Samuel was recognized with the “Graduated at Distinguished Level of Achievement” award and was selected by his school to represent it in the “Ulster Project” in Arlington TX. He was a squad leader in the marching band and qualified himself as an Eagle Scout.

Samuel was also a member of the Key Club, German Club and Jazz band. At his church he volunteered with the Church Youth Group.

Michelle E Roberts: Michelle is the daughter of Thelbert Lee Roberts and Brigitte Shanklan. Michelle intends to use her \$1,500 AREA scholarship in pursuit of multiple degrees in: International Law, Political Science and Spanish.



Michelle attended the First Presbyterian Christian Academy in Hinesville, GA. While there she was a member of the National Honor Society, was given the Presidential Service Award and the Rotary Youth Leadership Award. Michelle was an active member of the student government and served as its’ president. Additionally, Michelle was a member of the Future Business Leaders of America.

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Selena Moore: As Selena enters college this fall she will be seeking a degree in Biology. Selena, the daughter of SU Moore and Melville Moore Sr., received a \$1,500 AREA scholarship award.



In her time at York High School in Yorktown, VA, she was a member of the National Honor Society, the National Spanish Honor Society, a member of the student Council and was listed as an “AP Scholar With Honor”. Selena was honored with the prestigious “NASACP-ACTSO Outstanding Academics” award. Outside of the classroom Selena found time to volunteer as a mentor in the Big Brother Big Sister program.

Cassidy Brown: With her \$1,500 AREA scholarship in hand, Cassidy will be pursuing a degree in International Business as she enters college this fall. Cassidy is the daughter of James F and Angela Brown.



While attending Dr. Phillips High School in Orlando, FL she was an AP Scholar With Honors, a member of the National Honor Society as well as a member the Science, Spanish and the Math National Honor Societies. Cassidy worked with Special Olympics as a United Sports Partner and volunteered with the Center for International Students at Dr, Phillips HS.

Lisa Parks: Lisa Parks is the daughter of Kenneth and Christine Cummings. As the recipient of a \$1,500 AREA scholarship award, Lisa will be seeking a Pre-Med degree as she starts college in the fall.



Lisa attended Irvin High School in El Paso, Texas. In her high school years she was a member of the National Honor Society, a Questbridge Scholar and earned the Outstanding Citizenship Award at her school. Lisa was also recognized as an Academic Letterman and garnered the Outstanding Math Major award. Lisa also gave back to her community by volunteering at the Martin Luther King

Food Drive, the Ronald McDonald House of Charity and at the Providence Children Hospital.



Amanda Leigh Lilly: Amanda received a \$1,500 AREA scholarship award. She enters college this fall without a declared major. Amanda is the daughter of Marta and Donzie Lilly III.

While attending Hebron High School in Carrollton Texas, Amanda was a member of the National Honor Society, the National Arts Honor Society and the French Club. She represented her high school athletically as a member of both its’ varsity basketball and track and field teams. Amanda was listed on Hebron High School “A” Honor Roll and was given the Academic Excellence award in math. Amanda volunteered as a bible school teacher for low income children and volunteered in the Metro PCS Dallas and Miles Against Melanoma runs.