

AAFES Retired Employees Association (AREA) 2013 Scholarship Program

This year AREA awarded thirteen scholarships totaling \$43,000. Although the Board initially approved twelve scholarship awards earlier in the year, it was obvious during the evaluation process that there was another deserving applicant. The Scholarship Committee asked the board to approve the additional award and the board unanimously endorsed the proposal. We were able to award scholarships to all qualified applicants. I am proud to tell you that awards totaling \$565,795 have been made to 286 deserving students since the AREA scholarship program began in 1985. A brief recap of awardees' accomplishments and aspirations is shown below.

This was another banner year for the AREA Scholarship Program. Having said that, I would be remiss if I failed to mention how funds have been and continue to be made available for this outstanding "AAFES Employee-Oriented" program. The program garners support from both industry partners and from many within our own ranks who choose to recognize loved ones with a donation to the AREA Scholarship fund. Industry support and individual donations are key factors to the program's past and future success.

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 seven 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 on "...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 one 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, Maggie McGee, Vivian Skalsky, Richard Sheff, Darryl Richards, Don Smith and Mat Dromey 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 2014, make sure they review our Scholarship Program at <http://www.shopmyexchange.com/Community/AREA/>.

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

Regards,



Thomas Gallagher
Director, AREA Scholarship Program



Worth Marie LaRose: Worth, the daughter of Lawrence and Lynn LaRose is the recipient of the 2013 Marilyn Iverson Memorial award. This \$5,000 endowment is given to the top AREA scholarship recipient for outstanding academic achievement and community involvement. Worth enters college this fall seeking degrees in Art Technology and Business Administration. She attended Maypearl HS in Maypearl Texas. While in high school, Worth was a member of the National Honor Society and was recognized by her school with the Academic Student Government award, the “Most Creative” Senior Class award and the “Most Likely to Succeed” Junior Class award. She was a Drum Major in the Marching Band/Concert Band at her HS, was a member of the

Winter Guard and a member of its’ track team. In her spare time Worth volunteered at various Ellis County-sponsored events and in her spare time plays the guitar and sings at parties and teaches guitar.



David Lawrence Roachford: David, the recipient of a \$5,000 AREA scholarship award, is the son of Scott and Jessica Roachford. He enters college this fall pursuing a degree in Urban Planning and Development. David attended The Oakridge School in Arlington Texas. While there, he was a member of the National Honor Society, was given the "Xerox Award for Innovation and Technology", given the “Most Dedicated Pre-AP French Student” award and was recognized as an AP Scholar. In his HS years he served on the student Council, was a member of the Yearbook and HS Newspaper staffs and was a Football and Basketball manager. David also gave back to his community. He volunteered at the North Texas Food bank, worked with the Salvation Army and helped with the “Mission Arlington” program.



Amelia Ann Ellis: Amelia is the daughter of Robert and Christin Ellis. Having been awarded a \$3,000 AREA Scholarship, Amelia enters college this fall seeking a degree in Mathematics/Science. During her time at Aledo High School in Aledo Texas, she was a member of the National Honor Society, an AP Scholar and a varsity member of the Aledo High School swim team. Additionally, she is listed in Who's Who in Pre-AP Physics. After school, Amelia volunteered at Cook's Children hospital, participated as a volunteer in Ft. Worth's Snowball Express and volunteered at various events in her home town of Aledo.



Samantha Ryce Dillon: As Samantha enters college this fall she will be seeking a degree in Microchemistry. Samantha, the daughter of Michael Dillon and Iris LaTulippa, received a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award. In her time at Grafton HS in Yorktown Va., she was a member of the both the National and Spanish Honor Societies, and was recognized as a "Highest Honors" member. Samantha, an active member of her church, volunteered at various church-sponsored activities, was a member of its' Wednesday Night Choir and was a member of the Full Church Choir.



Bryanne Renee Ruder: Bryanne enters college this fall in seeking a Biology degree. Bryanne, recipient of a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award, is the daughter of Ronald and Donna Ruder. While attending Frisco HS in Frisco Texas, Bryanne was listed on the school's All "A" Honor Roll, was a member of the National Honor Society, garnered the Frisco HS Biology award and was an active member of her HS Volleyball team. She also volunteered as a volleyball coach (3rd & 4th graders) and volunteered as a coordinator for volley tournaments.



Kyle Jae Verdeyen: Kyle, the son of Mark and Jae Verdeyen, received a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award. He intends to use that award to pursue a career as a Computer Engineer and Biomedical Engineer. While at R. L. Paschal HS in Ft. Worth, Texas, Kyle was a National Honor Roll member and distinguished himself academically as a FWISD Scholar, Lockheed Martin Aerospace Scholar and a Radio Shack Scholar. Kyle was also a member of member of the HS swimming team, a member of the Key Club, served as a research intern at TCU and a computer repair intern at Computers Made Easy.



Gabrielle Marie Wall: Gabrielle received a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award. As she embarks on her college career this fall, Gabrielle intends to use that award to pursue a career in Business Marketing. Gabrielle the daughter of Michael and Nancy Wall, attended Harris County HS in Hamilton, GA. While there, she was a member of its marching band, president of her freshman class and was not only a member of the 4-H club but acted as its county president. Academically, Gabrielle was listed on her school's Honor Roll and given an "Award of Excellence – U. S. History" citation. Gabrielle was an active member of her church where she was an alter server and was a member of its youth group. She also volunteered as a 4-H summer camp counselor and volunteered at the Columbus Naval Museum Pirate Festival.



Angelica Abella: Angelica, the daughter of Josedino and Irene Abella, received a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award. She intends to use that award to pursue a career in Aerospace Engineering as she begins her college career this fall. Angelica, while at St. Patrick - St Vincent-HS in Vallejo, California, was listed "First Honors" from 2010 through 2013, and participated as a varsity member of the soccer team, the track and field team and the cross country team. She was also a member of the National Honor Society (ARTS) and a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. Away from school, Angelica was a drummer in a band, taught summer school and acted as an aid in the extended care ministry at her church.



Donzie Alexander Lilly: Donzie, the recipient of a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award, is the son of Donzie and Marta Lilly. He enters college this fall pursuing a degree in Business/Finance. Donzie attended Hebron HS in Carrollton, Texas. While there, he was listed on the school's Honor Roll for Science, captained the Varsity Swim team, was a member of the Latin Club Region/State, and was a member of the "Ruckus and Rowdy" Spirit Club. In his spare time Donzie was a church youth leader and worked as a lifeguard and swimming instructor.



Marcel Tatum: Marcel is the son of James and Martina Tatum. He is the recipient of a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award. Marcel enters college this fall seeking a Business Finance degree. Marcel spent his HS career at Mountain Home HS in Mountain Home Idaho. In his time there, he distinguished himself as a "Mock Trial - Outstanding Lawyer" at the Canyon County courthouse competition, was awarded the "Debater of the Year" at his HS and was recognized with a Certificate of Excellence in Earth, Science and English by Mountain Home HS. Away from school, Marcel volunteered with the Salvation Army, aided in U.S. Congressional and House of Representative campaigns and found time to play indoor soccer.



Rachelle Briana Allen: As Rachelle enters college this fall she will be seeking a degree in Arts/Design. Rachelle, the daughter of Ricky and Sabrina Allen, received a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award. In her time at Karen Patrick HS in San Antonio Texas, Rachelle was a member of both the Spanish and National Honor Societies, was elected Secretary of her senior class and was selected Secretary of the Spanish Club. Rachelle was also an active member of her church where she was a bible school teacher. With all of this Rachelle found time to represent Karen Patrick HS as a member of its' varsity track & field team.



Sadullah Cakolli: Sadullah enters college this fall in pursuit of a Biology-Chemistry (Pre-Medical) degree. Sadullah, recipient of a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award, is the son of Eshref and Luljeta Cakolli. While attending Ramstein AFB HS in Germany, Sadullah was recognized with a “Principals Award”, the “Phenomenal Freshman Award” and was a member of the National Honor Society. He also represented his HS as a member of its’ varsity Soccer and Wrestling teams and was a member of the Calculus Club. Away from school Sadullah worked for the Exchange as a cashier and while employed, earned the “Dedication and Determination Award”.



Edward Thomas Devlin IV: Edward, the recipient of a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award, is the son of Edward and Helen Devlin. As Edward enters college this fall he will be pursuing a degree in Aerospace Engineering. Edward spent his HS career at Notre Dame Catholic School in Wichita Falls Texas. In his time there, he garnered first place in the District Academic Social Studies Competition in 2013 and attained 2nd place in the same competition two years earlier. Edward represented his school on the athletic field as a member of the Tennis, Football, Basketball and Soccer varsity squads.