



2014 AREA SCHOLARSHIPS

AAFES Retired Employees Association (AREA) 2014 Scholarship Program

This year AREA awarded 21 scholarships totaling \$53,500, the highest dollar amount ever. Although the Board initially approved twelve scholarship awards earlier in the year, it was obvious during the evaluation process that there were additional deserving applicants. We received 41 applications this year, the second largest number in the history of the program. From that number we had 29 qualifying applicants. The Scholarship Committee asked the board to approve nine additional \$1,500 awards. The board responded by adding \$13,500 to fund the additional scholarships. This year's total scholarship dollar amount surpasses the previous high of \$47,000. 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 \$624,295 have been made to 307 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. AAFES employees value the AREA Scholarship Program. 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 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 nine 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, Jim Skibo, 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 2015, make sure he/she reviews 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



2014 AREA SCHOLARSHIPS

\$5,000 Scholarship Winners

Alec Spence Hendricks

2014 \$5,000 Marilyn Iverson Memorial Scholarship

Alec, the son of Melvin and Liza Hendricks is the recipient of the 2014 Marilyn Iverson Memorial award. This \$5,000 endowment is given to the top AREA scholarship recipient for outstanding academic achievement and community involvement. Alec enters college this fall seeking a degree in Chemical Engineering.

He attended Willow Bend Academy in Plano, Texas. While in high school, Alec was a member of the National Honor Society and a National Merit Semi-finalist. He was a member of the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science (TAMS) Medical Society and worked as a Research Assistant with the Golden Research Group at the University of North Texas.

Outside of the classroom, Alec served on a Teen Advisory Board of the Perot Museum in Dallas. Notable among his other personal other accomplishments, Alec is an Eagle Scout and volunteers as member of the Special Needs Ministry at his church.

Mead Evans Robuck

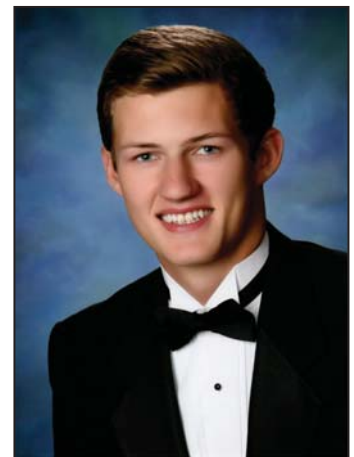
\$5,000 AREA Scholarship

Mead, recipient of a \$5,000 AREA scholarship award, is the son of Greg and Martha Robuck. He enters college this fall pursuing degrees in Business and Finance. Mead attended Jesuit College Preparatory School in Dallas, Texas where he distinguished himself as a member of the Headmasters Honor Roll, a member of the National honor Society and a member of the Spanish Honor Society.

He also represented his school as a member its 5-A swim team and a member of its Multi-cultural Society, Mead also headed up Jesuit's Freshman Tutoring program, found time to become an Eagle Scout and volunteered at Chase's Place, a program benefiting mentally challenged kids, and volunteered as an usher and acolyte at his church.



Alec Hendricks



Mead Evans Robuck

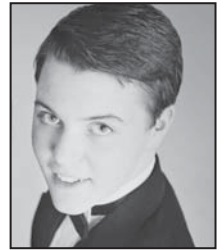
\$3,000 AREA SCHOLARSHIPS

Sarah Elaine Griffith: Sarah is the daughter of Norman and Clara Griffith. Having been awarded a \$3,000 AREA Scholarship, Sarah enters college this fall as a Pre-Med student. During her time at Wiesbaden High School in Wiesbaden Germany, she was the secretary of the National Honor Society, was recognized with a “Wiesbaden Warrior” All-Academic Award, she received the Scholastic Achievement Award (4.0 QPA – 4 Years). As a varsity cheerleader, Sarah was awarded the All-Europe 2nd Team Dodds-Europe Cheerleader Award. Outside the class room Sarah volunteered as an usher at her church, a volunteer at the on-base Thrift Shop and was a coordinator of food drives at the on-base CYYs.



Sarah Elaine Griffith

Bryan Joseph Leines: Bryan is the son of Jon D and Elyce A. Leines. He is the recipient of a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award. Bryan enters college this fall seeking an Economics and Business Analytics degree. Bryan spent his HS career as a homeschool student in Rawlett, Texas. During his high school years, Bryan distinguished himself as a “National Merit Commended Student” and was recognized for his forensics accomplishments with several awards including a semifinalist award at the Minnesota National Open in March of this year. Bryan volunteers as Choir Director and full-time worship team accompanist at his church.



Bryan Leines

Michaella Nicole Headrick: As Michaella enters college this fall she will be seeking a degree in Engineering. Michaella, the daughter of Larry Mark and Angela Headrick, received a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award. In her time at Keller HS in Keller, Texas, Michaella was a member of the both the National and National Art Honor Societies and in her time at Keller HS, she was recognized by United States Achievement Academy with a National Fine Arts Award. Additionally, she represented her school as a member of its’ cross country team. Using her exceptional arts talent, Michaella volunteered with “Love Luggage”, an organization providing “Artist -painted luggage” to children in the local Battered Women's Shelter (luggage is filled with “child friendly” items).



Michaella Headrick

Haley M. Pierce: Haley, the daughter of Gabriel and Tina M. Pierce, received a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award. She intends to use that award to pursue a career in Business Management/Culinary Arts. While at Midlothian HS in Midlothian, Texas, Haley was on the National Honor Roll, a Texas State ProStart Culinary Management Qualifier and earned a National Forensics League commendation. Haley also represented her HS on the athletic field as a member the varsity cross country team. Haley was active outside of the classroom as well: she volunteered as a Japanese Language Tutor and volunteered at local marathon and 5K runs.



Haley M. Pierce

Mariah Camper: As Mariah enters college this fall she will be seeking a degree in Psychology with a concentration in Neuroscience. Mariah, the daughter of Marcus and Kayla Camper, received a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award. In her time at The Hockaday School in Dallas Texas, Mariah was a NCA All-American Team Nominee, earned mention on the Headmistress' List and was shown on the school's Commended List. She was a member of Upper School Student Council, chaired the Fine Arts Board, was the President of the Hockaday Gospel Choir and was a varsity Cheerleader.



Mariah Camper

Sahara Bueker: Sahara enters college this fall in pursuit of a Biochemistry degree. Sahara, recipient of a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award, is the daughter of Glen and Brandi Bueker. While attending James Bowie HS in Arlington, Texas, Sahara was recognized as a member of the National Honor Society and accepted into the International Baccalaureate Program. She was a member of the school band and in fact was awarded the position of Pit Captain (leadership position) in that organization. Outside of the classroom Sahara volunteered at the Arlington Mission and was an active participant of her church where she played the piano at Sunday services.



Sahara Bueker

More \$3000 Scholarship winners on page 15

\$3,000 AREA SCHOLARSHIPS

Patrick C. King: Patrick is the son of Michael J. and Ann L. King. He is the recipient of a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award. He enters college this fall seeking a Chemical Engineering degree. Patrick spent his HS career at Lovejoy HS in Lucas, Texas. During his time at Lovejoy HS, he distinguished himself by being an Honor Society member, by garnering the “Leopard Award: Hardest working Student; AP History” and as a member of the school band by receiving all-region and state-wide recognition. Additionally, Patrick was a member of the Lovejoy HS Robotics team - He received an Excellence Award, VEX Robotics Competition, State Qualifier. Away from the academic setting, Patrick, an Eagle Scout, volunteers as a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster and is an active member of his church where he is an Acolyte.



Patrick King

Erin Clare Madden: Erin received a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award. As she embarks on her college career this fall, Erin intends to use that award to pursue a Biomedical Science (Pre-Med) degree. Erin the daughter of Edmund and Susan Madden attended Coppell HS in Coppell, Texas. While there, she was a member of the National Honor Society/AP Scholar, recognized with the Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership award and received The “I Rock Award” for presenting ITUNEU Anatomy book. She was captain of the Coppell HS varsity softball team and was twice recognized with the Softball All-District Academic Award. Erin is an active volunteer at her church. She is a “Mission Possible” volunteer, actively participates as a Rite of Confirmation Leader and a teaches Sunday school.



Erin Clare Madden

Emily Michelle McLaren: As Emily enters college this fall she will be seeking a degree in Kinesiology. Emily, the daughter of James K. and Linda McLaren, received a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award. In her time at James W. Martin HS in Arlington, Texas, she was a member of the National Honor Society, the German National Honor Society and the Science National Honor Society. Emily also captained the James W. Martin HS soccer team. Emily volunteers as a mentor to grade school students, volunteers with the Leukemia Society, volunteers at Mission Arlington and volunteers with the Red Cross. She also spends time as a volunteer with Young Life, A non-denominational Christian ministry.



Emily Michelle McLaren

Benjamin Woodberry: Benjamin, the recipient of a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award, is the son of John and Maria Woodberry. He enters college this fall pursuing a degree in Communications. Benjamin attended Fort Walton Beach High School in Fort Walton Beach Florida. He distinguished himself by graduating Magna Cum Laude of his class. Further, Benjamin was an AP Scholar, a “Viking Scholar”, was recognized with the “Valkyrie/Norseman Award”– An award given by teacher vote and he was a ROTC Corp Commander for a whole semester. Away from school Benjamin volunteered with SOY (Special Operations Youth) at the Hurlburt Field Chapel, volunteered with the Boy Scouts and held a summer job at McDonalds



Benjamin Woodberry

\$1,500 AREA SCHOLARSHIPS

Jeffrey Joseph Cervenka: Jeffrey, the son of Patricia Cervenka and Gary Cervenka, received a \$1,500 AREA scholarship award. He intends to use that award to pursue a Pre-Physical Therapy degree. While at Bishop Dunne Catholic HS in Dallas, Texas, Jeffrey was a recognized with the Bishop Dunne Merit Scholarship award, was a Silver Medal recipient of the National Latin Exam and was an AP Scholar. Outside the classroom, Jeffrey is a Red Oak Public Library volunteer, volunteers with “Hearts and Hammers Dallas” and volunteers as a tutor to elementary school students. Jeffrey actively participates at his church where he is a Eucharist minister and a mentor to church youth.



Jeffrey Cervenka

Ryan Keith Weaver: Ryan is the son of Andrew K. and Melissa L. Weaver. Ryan intends to use his \$1,500 AREA scholarship in pursuit of a Music Performance degree. Ryan attended Edward S. Marcus High School in Flower Mound Texas. While there he was a member of the National Honor Society, was an AP Scholar with Distinction and is a member of the Junior Classical League, was a member of the Marcus HS band. He distinguished himself by taking 3rd place in the prestigious “Texas Music Teachers Association UTA Jazz/Pop Piano Contest” and by attaining 1st Chair Bassoon and Contrabassoon Wind Ensemble of Marcus HS and by being a member of the Junior Classical league. Ryan enjoys tennis and performing with the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra.



Ryan Keith Weaver

More \$1500 Scholarship winners on page 16



Allison Ponthier

\$1,500 AREA SCHOLARSHIPS

Allison Ponthier: As Allison enters college this fall she will be seeking a degree in Jazz Studies (Vocal). Allison, the daughter of Mark and Tamara Ponthier, received a \$1,500 AREA scholarship award. In her time at Allen High School in Allen Texas, she was the Chorale Historian for two years, a member of the Encore Show Choir and attained 14th Chair in the Region 25 Mixed Choir. In her spare time Allison models (Including volunteer work) and sings with the Dallas Jazz Trio.

Marc Alexander Agee: With his \$1,500 AREA scholarship in hand, Marc will be pursuing a degree in Linguistic as he enters college this fall. Marc is the son of James D. and Paula M. Agee. While attending Fairborn High School in Fairborn Ohio, he was a member of the National Honor Society, received the GWCC Scholar Athlete Award and was listed on the Principal's honor roll. Further, Marc was a member of the Fairborn High School Drama Club, played in both the Symphony Orchestra and Jazz band and ran cross country. Marc is an active member of his church where he works with youth groups and functions as the Assistant Music Director.

Christopher J. Calandria: Christopher is the son of Jorge and Laura Calandria. The recipient of a \$1,500 AREA scholarship award, Christopher will be seeking a degree in Aerospace/Aeronautical Engineering as he starts college in the fall. Christopher, an Eagle Scout, attended James W. Martin High School in Arlington Texas. In his high school years he was a member of the National Honor Society, a member of the Hispanic National Honor Society, was a National Hispanic Scholar and a member of the Technical Honor Society. Additionally, Christopher was a member of his HS Competitive Marching Band and a member of "Seekers", a Christen Students Club at James W. Martin High School. In his spare time he enjoys playing trumpet, going camping and serving as an audio engineer at his church.

David J. Peters: David received a \$1,500 AREA scholarship award. He intends to use the award in pursuit of a degree in Human Biology. David is the son of Donald J. and Anna Lee Peters. While attending Samuel Clemens High School in Schertz Texas, David was a National AP Scholar and was in the top 20 of his class. He was an active athlete at Samuel Clemens High School. He was a member of its' Track, Golf and Basketball teams. Away from school, David works at National Bridge Caverns and volunteers as a member of the Medical Maintenance team at the San Antonio Military Medical Center.

Kenneth Lee Stillwell Jr.: Kenneth, the son of Kenneth and Kim Stillwell, earned a \$1,500 AREA scholarship award. He'll use that award seeking an Accounting degree. Kenneth attended New Egypt High School in New Egypt New Jersey. In his high school years, Kenneth was a National Honor Society member, was listed on the rolls of the National Society of High School Scholars, was a member of both the Spanish and Environmental club and was selected Student of the Month in December 2013. Kenneth excelled in athletics at New Egypt High School where he captained the Soccer, Basketball and Track teams. In his spare time Kenneth volunteers with the Vacation Bible School program at his church and plays club soccer on sever squads in and around New Egypt.

Brandon Hunter Eckert: Brandon attended Martin High School in Arlington Texas. This fall he enters college in pursuit of a degree in Biochemistry. Brandon, the son of William C. and Diana D. Poulson, is the recipient of a \$1,500 Area scholarship. While at Martin HS Brandon was a member of the National Science Honor Society, a member of Rho Kappa honor Society and earned 3rd place in the National History Day Competition Region Finals. He was a violinist in Smith's orchestra and the Vice President of FAA at Smith HS. Away from school, Brandon has been involved in a dog rescue program since 2002 and has raised and shown a boar goat at local stock shows.

Hailley Josephine Davidson: As a freshman in college this fall, Hailley will be seeking a degree in Wildlife and Fishery Science. She is the daughter of Tamara Davidson. While at Dubiski High School in Grand Prairie, Texas Hailley distinguished herself as a member of the National Honor Society, as a state qualifier in BPA and as a national qualifier in DECA. She earned a Certificate of Internship and earned certification in both Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel. Hailley is an active volunteer. She gave her personal time to the local food bank, a local elderly home and was a volunteer with The Special Olympics. She is the recipient of a \$1,500 scholarship.



Marc Alexander Agee



Christopher Calandria



David J. Peters



Kenneth Lee Stillwell



Brandon Eckert



Hailley Davidson