



2016 AREA Scholarship Program

On the following pages you will see the stories and photos of the awarded recipients for this cycle. But how did these fine people get selected? Here is a short synopsis of how the program works:

1. The program is financed by contributions from AREA individuals, mostly members, and an American Logistics Association (ALA) chapter in Dallas/Fort Worth. AREA Chapters also contribute through their periodic events. We need your contributions to ensure the continuation of our current level of scholarship support for AAFES dependent children
2. The program is limited to graduating high school seniors who have been accepted at accredited colleges. One of the parents must have been an AAFES employee on January 1st of the award year, had at least twelve consecutive months of Exchange employment, or in the case of military personnel, Exchange assignment. For a deceased parent, the twelve-month employment requirement must have been met at the time of death.
3. Applications are sent to the scholarship committee during the designated enrollment period – usually January 1st through March 31st of each year. Application forms are available on the AREA web site at: <http://www.aafes.com/about-exchange/retired-employees-association/community-programs/scholarships.htm>. All application criteria are laid out on the web site.

Each year the AREA board of directors set award parameters based on availability of funds. The AREA administers the program through an appointed AREA Scholarship Program Director. Scholarship Program Committee members, selected by the Director, independently evaluate applications. Evaluations are then tabulated and award recommendations are made to the AREA BOD.

Here is a letter we received from Matthew Koch, one of this years' awardees (see page 9):

Dear Mr. Gallagher and AAFES AREA members,

I am writing you in order to thank you for selecting me as the 2016-2017 recipient of the **AAFES AREA Marilyn Iverson Scholarship**. I was both honored and humbled to learn that I was a recipient of it. I also want to thank all those who work tirelessly for the donations for these scholarships.

In going to Troy University, I plan to further my education in the field of music. I will follow up my intended major in high hopes to join an orchestra in the United Kingdom such as the London Philharmonic. The donation provided will be of great assistance in paying my educational expenses reducing the amount of time spent worrying on finances, thusly, giving me a better chance to focus on my studies.

Thank you again for the support you have provided in your prestigious and charitable donation. I do not intend on wasting it, for I plan to use it effectively and proficiently. I hope to one day be able to pay the debt with my success in the music field by promoting students such as myself with a scholarship such as the one you graciously blessed me with. I am forever honored to be a member of the AAFES family and I will work exceptionally hard so that you will not regret your choice in choosing me.

Warmest regards,
Matthew Koch

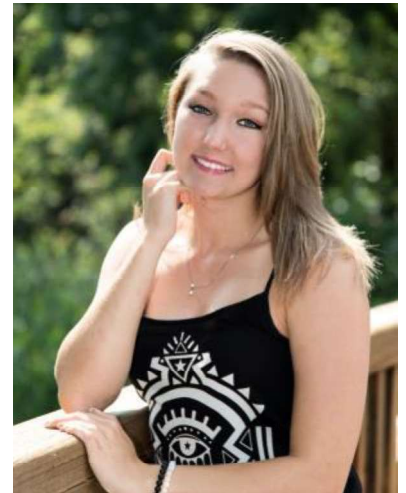
2016 Scholarships

Winners of the \$5000 Award



Matthew Jacob Koch: Matthew, the son of Stephen Jr. and Helena Garansi, is the recipient of the **2016 Marilyn Iverson Memorial award**. This \$5,000 endowment is given to the top AREA scholarship candidate for outstanding academic achievement and community involvement. He enters college this fall seeking a degree in Music Education. Matthew was the Valedictorian of Danville High School in Danville Alabama. While in high school Matthew was recognized as an Alabama Allstate Musician, was a member of the Senior National Honor Society and a member of Beta Club international. He was a member of his school Marching and Concert Band and it's Premier Jazz Band. Away from school Mathew was a wildlife rehabilitation volunteer and a skeet range manager at Fort Rucker.

Zania J. Sterling: Zania, the recipient of a \$5,000 AREA scholarship award, is the daughter of Allan and Stacie Sterling. She enters college this fall pursuing a degree in Sports management/Event Planning/Entrepreneurship. Zania attended Ramstein American High School in Germany. While there she was recognized with Presidential gold Volunteer Service Award, the Principle's award for Honor Roll and received recognition as a National Youth Leadership Achievement Award. Zania was a member of the Varsity Softball squad and a varsity Cheerleader. Sher was a member of the national Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society and Student to Student volunteer.



Winners of the \$3000 Award



Kelsey Leigh Robuck: Kelsey is the daughter of Greg and Martha Robuck. Having been awarded a \$3,000 AREA Scholarship, Kelsey enters college this fall seeking a Political Science degree. During her time at Ursuline Academy of Dallas, she was the Summa Cum laude Honor Graduate, a member of the First Honor Roll and a National Spanish First Silver Medalist. Kelsey was a National Honor Society Member, President and Founder of the Woman's Liberation Club and a member of the student's Reach Out club as well a member of the Swim Team. Away from school, Kelsey was an active member of her church as a Vacation Bible Study Volunteer and Classroom Assistant at the Thomas Aquinas Elementary School.

Area Scholarship story continues on page 10.

2016 Scholarships

Winners of the \$3000 Award



Eric Joshua Garcia: Eric is the son of Ronaldo and Melany Garcia. He is the recipient of a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award. Eric enters college this fall seeking separate degrees in Biology and Computer Science. Eric spent his HS career at Academy of Health Sciences, in Lmargo Maryland. During his high school years, Eric distinguished himself as a National Honor Society Collegiate Scholars member, and being on both the Honor Roll and the Dean's List. Eric sat as the VP of the Pre-Health Professional CO, was a member of Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society and a Phi Theta Kappa member. Away from academia, Eric volunteered as a Vacation Bible School Aide, Medstar Southern Maryland Hospital Center, and Pathfinder Scout Aide.

Gina Mancinelli: Gina enters college this fall in pursuit of a Nursing degree. Gina, recipient of a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award, is the daughter of Richard and Cresilia Mancinelli. While attending Keys Gate Charter HS, Gina was recognized as Student of the Year in AICE Biology, received the Certificate in Science and received the City of Homestead Academic Award. She was a member of the Keys Gate Varsity Softball, Soccer and Swim Teams. Gina volunteered at Homestead Hospital and even established a children's library at the facility.



Riley Michelle Cloud: Riley enters college this fall in pursuit of a Psychology degree. Riley, recipient of a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award, is the daughter of Robin Cloud. While attending Mansfield Lake Ridge HS, Mansfield Texas, she was a member of the National Honor Society, recognized as an Advanced Placement Scholar and was given the Lake Ridge High School Teacher's Choice award. Riley was a band section leader, a member of the school's varsity concert band and its' marching band. Away from school she gave back to the community by volunteering at Mission Arlington and volunteering to entertain elderly residents at a local nursing home.

Area Scholarship story continues on page 11.

2016 Scholarships

Winners of the \$3000 Award



Caitlin Leigh Calandria: Catlin received a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award. As she embarks on her college career this fall, Catlin intends to use that award to pursue a Chemical Engineering degree. Catlin, the daughter of Jorge and Laura Calandria, attended James Martin High School in Arlington, Texas. While there, she was a member of the National Honor Society and a member of the National Spanish Honor Society and she was a member of the National Science Honor Society. Catlin was a member of her HS Wind Symphony Orchestra and was a Musical PIT performer. Away from the classroom she played with the Arlington Youth Symphony Orchestra and found time to mentor at-risk children and teens.

Brendan Robert King: Brendan is the son of Michael James and Ann Louise King. He is the recipient of a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award. Brendan enters college this fall seeking a degree in Early Childhood Development/Education. Brendan spent his HS career at Lovejoy High School in Lucas, Texas. During his time at Lovejoy HS, he distinguished himself as a member of the National Honor Society and as a recipient of a “Superior Ratings, Choir UIL Solo & Ensemble” at regional competition. Brendan played varsity soccer at Lovejoy HS and was a member of its’ Varsity choir. He is an Eagle Scout and volunteered as a classroom aide for special education children.



Samuel Calkins: As Samuel enters college this fall he will be seeking a degree in Political Science. Samuel, the son of, Timothy and Lori Calkins, received a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award. In his time at James Bowie HS in Arlington, Texas, Samuel was a member of the National Honor Society, captain of the Debate Team, captain of the Academic Decathlon team, a member of the student council and was recognized as the TSA State Champion (Debating Technological issues). Away from the classroom, Samuel volunteered as an Assistant Scoutmaster and with the Mission Arlington Program.

Area Scholarship story continues on page 12.

2016 Scholarships

Winners of the \$3000 Award



Marissa Brennan: Marissa, the daughter of Kyle Harris, received a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award. She intends to use that award to pursue a career in Chemical Engineering. While at Kennedale High School, Kennedale Texas, Marissa was a member of the Key Club, served both as class president and member of the student council. She was a member of the National Honor Society and the National Spanish Honor Society. Marissa, an All-District volleyball player also excelled at soccer at Kennedale HS. In addition to these achievements Marilla earned recognition as a National Merit Scholar – Commended and as a National Hispanic Scholar.



Blake Anthony Buckley: Blake is the son of Michael and Constance Buckley. He is the recipient of a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award. Blake enters college this fall seeking separate degrees in Psychology and Education. Blake spent his HS career at Highlands Catholic School in Irving Texas. During his high school years, Blake distinguished himself as a “National Merit Scholarship Commended Student” and as recipient of the prestigious President’s Education Award. He was a member of the Choir and President of the National Honor Society. Away from school Blake volunteered at the N Texas Food Bank, was a volunteer Math Tutor and was a Church Youth Volunteer at St. Michael’s Catholic Church in Irving.



Bryce Allen Bailey: As Bryce enters college this fall he will be seeking a degree in Sports Medicine. Bryce, the son of Joseph and Linda Bailey., received a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award. Bryce attended Mansfield Lake Ridge HS in Mansfield, TX. While there, Blake was a member of the All District 14-15 Academic Team, a member of the National Honor Society and Vice President of FFA. He Played Varsity Football and also found time to volunteer with the Salvation Army Food Drive program and as a volunteer building homes for vets at Tinker AFB in Oklahoma.