

East Texas Communities Foundation

**2026
Scholarship
Recognition**

Celebration

Tuesday, May 12, 2026
Green Acres Baptist Church





East Texas Communities Foundation is pleased to honor the 175 new recipients of scholarships awarded for the 2026-2027 academic year. These students were selected from over 2,000 applicants for 110 different scholarship opportunities. Their awards total \$460,600.

In addition, 140 renewing scholarship recipients will be awarded \$544,250 to continue their education. The total amount of scholarship monies East Texas Communities Foundation will distribute for the 2026-2027 academic school year is \$1,004,850.

Program

5:30

Welcome - ETCF President Kyle Penney

5:35

Congratulations! - ETCF Board Chair Barbara Bass

5:40

**Scholarship Announcements
ETCF Program Officer Dana Durman**

East Texas Communities Foundation supports philanthropy by offering simple ways for donors to achieve their charitable goals. ETCF works with individuals, families, businesses, financial advisors and nonprofit organizations to create charitable funds which support a wide variety of community causes and individual philanthropic interests.

East Texas Communities Foundation is extremely grateful to the following community members who served on our scholarship evaluation committees this year. They invest hours of time reading applications, imparting valuable insight, and keeping the evaluation process impartial and objective.

Greg Abshire	Robbie Campbell	Scott Durman	Kris Gusa
Jesse Acosta	Jackie Cannon	Stephanie East	Jackie Gutierrez
Denise Acosta	Ginger Cardwell	Elicia Eckert	Claudia Haga
Heather Adams	Hunter Carr	Kira Elvey	Louise Hagen
Lana Adams	Michelle Carr	Chris Emerson	Toni Halbrooks
Meg Addison	Anthe Caruso	Mike Estes	Leslie Hanks
Lorri Allen	Case Castagno	Rachel Evers	Ginny Harleston
Daniel Anderson	Luke Chachere	Amy Ewen	Melissa Harrell
Robert Bailes	Cheryl Chambers	Toby Fails	Craig Harris
Jennifer Bailey	Rachel Chandler	Kim Fajardo	Krystle Hazel- Cocchio
Liz Ballard	Tricia Cherry	Caroline Faulconer	Penny Heddin
Kristen Baldwin	Allison Chew	Clark Faulconer	Gena Himes
Jennifer Bansel	Regina Childress	Clayton Faulconer	Lisa Horlander
Emily Barker	Vanessa Chisler	Franny Faulconer	Melanie Hudson
Elisabeth Barnhart	Trent Chudej	Galen Faulconer	Elizabeth Hutcheson
Janet Batchelor	Lynn Clemons	Jayme Fitzpatrick	Graham Ingram
Deb Bates	Jill Cobb	Donna Flatt	Betsy Jones
Ashley Bauwer	David Coble	Amy Fleming-Hodges	Mary Lynn Jones
Shelley Beaumont	Casey Cockrell	Dana Fleming	Sharon Keith
Julie Becker	Misty Coker	Larry Fleming	Rubye Kendrick
Henry Bell	Dennis Combs	Craig Florence	Kasseye Kennemer
Stacy Bengtson	Karen Cone	Jesus Flores	Donna Kimbrough
Casey Berkhouse	Melanie Cooper	Shannon Franzen	Lisa King
Tonia Bickham	Will Courington	Cindy Gabehart	Tiffany Kirgan
Kenneth Bitz	Anna Cousineau	Susan Gaddis	Kevan Kirksey
Debra Bochow	Jim Cousineau	Julia Gardner	Alec Kitt
Elizabeth Boone	Brad Curtis	Jerry Garner	Mark Kuykendall
Wayne Boshears	Suzanne Curtis	Marcia Garrett	Jona Lake
Lezlie Boyd	Deron Dacus	Jennifer Gaston	Sarah Lang
Jeff Brady	Shannon Dacus	Susan George	Paul Latta
Gillian Brasfield	Philip Davin	DeDe Gibson	Zoe Lawhorn
Melissa Braswell	Clara Davis	Shannon Glenney	Amy Lay
Anita Breymeyer	Debbie Davis	Karen Goetting	Jerry Lea
Brad Brookshire	Kim Davis	Carl Gray	Chris Leach
Allen Brown	Misty Davis	Debby Gray	Larry LeBeau
Conner Brown	Steve Dement	Sally Greene	Tracy Lisner
Cecile Brownlee	Paulette Ditto	Lisa Grimm	Laura Little
Steve Bryson	Tim Drain	Carter Grooms	Beth Long
Dawn Burkett	Angela Driggers	Roger Guenther	Mike Lutmer
Scott Burlison	Brandon Durman	Beth Guinn	Shannon Lutmer
Christian Campbell	Brian Durman	Carroll Gurganus	Doyle Lynch

Dave Maland
Melissa Martin
Aaron Martinez
Angela Martinez
Ruth Martinez
Rachel Mason
Beth Mastel Smith
Jeremy McBain
Shane McConnell
Brandy Meadows
Randy Melton
Julie Mettlen
Rhoda Micale
Kelly Michaels
Courtney Miller
Lanny Miller
Leigh Ann Miller
Matt Millslagle
Karen Mobbs
Jan Moch
Carl Mohn
Rebecca Mohr
Christy Moore
Connie Moore
Regina Moss
Brian Motto
Jess Mowery
James Murphy
Suzanne Myers
Corbett Nachman
Daniel Nagore
Kathrine Nalbhone
Stephanie Nichols
Mike Norris
Christine Oliphant
Randy Owens
Melinda Parker
Jazmine Parks
Caryn Pepper
Monica Penkilo
Nick Pesina
Nanci Pollard
Nick Pollard
Penney Pollard

Rogers Pope
Katie Powell
Carey Prater
Tammy Prater
Matt Proctor
Robert Puschautz
Jennifer Rainer
Lia Rains
Ellen Reed
George Ann Reed
Brandi Regester
Megan Riaz
Amanda Richardson
Leslie Ring
Nakita Rogers
Jerry Rogers
Debbie Roosth
Smittee Root
Sharon Ross
Kim Rowden
Janice Rowland
Lynette Ruby
Laura Russell
Lianne Sanchez
Lauren Sands
Tate Sands
Joey Seeber
Eddie Sheffield
Beth Shepperd
Gillian Sheridan
Beth Short
Libby Shoup
Elizabeth Simmons
Larkin Simmons
Marlin Sinville
Gail Sloan
Michelle Small
Lauren Smerbeck
Mary Lynn Smith
Roger Smith
Cindy Smoak
Dana Snyder
Richard Solomon
Jacob Spitzer

Steve Spitzer
Patrick Stacey
Sara Steinbrueck
Staci Stevens
Abby Stewart
Michael Stoltz
Loretta Swan
Linda Swindling
Margo Talley
Mark Tarver
Shea Taucher
Sandi Taylor
Mark Thacker
Blake Thomas
Paula Thomas
Shea Thomas
Ebb Torres
Michelle Trammell
Johna Tritt
Meredith Tritt
Celia Tucker
Clark Turner
Julia Vargas
Amber Varona
Lou Ann Viergever
Ginger Walker
Lisa Walker
Staci Walker
Alan Wharton
Ed Wildt
Pattie Willbanks
Lisa Williams
Courtney Willis
Ashlea Wilson
Wayne Wilson
Anita Windham
Melinda Wink
Steve Winston
Nancy Wrenn
Nicole Wright
Kim Wright-Ponder
Ginger Young
Tanner Young
Leonard Zaploskyy

Olga Zaploskyy
Jimmy Zednick

If you are interested in learning more about serving on a scholarship committee, please send an email to scholarships@etcf.org and we will send you information.

**THANKFUL
FOR you!**

EAST TEXAS COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION

~ 2026 ETCF Scholarship



OF UNIQUE APPLICANTS

2,011

OF VOLUNTEER EVALUATORS

347



TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED

\$1,004,850



\$460,600
to new recipients

\$544,250
to renewing recipients

TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

175/140

new recipients





renewing recipients

140 - graduating
high school seniors





8 - current college
students



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS DECLARED AREAS OF STUDY

- ARTS - 2% 
- BUSINESS - 19% 
- SOCIAL SCIENCES - 22% 
- ENGINEERING - 15% 



- 16% - NURSING 
- 31% - PRE-MED/HEALTHCARE 
- 5% - EDUCATION 
- 17% - VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL 

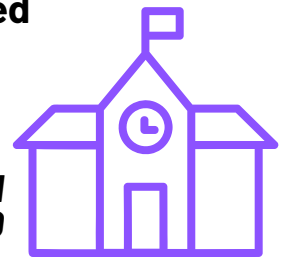
of New Scholarships
Created in
2025/2026

6

of East Texas
High Schools Represented

58

HIGH SCHOOLS WITH THE MOST \$\$\$ AWARDED



Whitehouse High School: 11 students awarded \$127,500

Early College High School: 8 students awarded \$121,500

Clarksville High School: 4 students awarded \$96,000

Jacksonville High School: 3 students awarded \$80,500

Henderson High School: 7 students awarded \$78,000

Bullard High School: 3 students awarded \$63,000

*numbers reflect renewable scholarship amounts



*counties not shown on map are
Jefferson, Liberty & Limestone

Recipient Statistics ~

COLLEGES WITH THE MOST RECIPIENTS ATTENDING ...



23



19



17



12



11



9



7



6



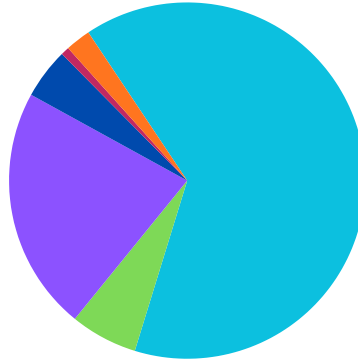
4



3



RACE/ETHNICITY OF RECIPIENTS



- WHITE/CAUCASIAN - 65%
- AFRICAN AMERICAN/BLACK - 6%
- LATINO/HISPANIC - 22%
- BIRACIAL - 4%
- NATIVE AMERICAN - 1%
- PACIFIC ISLANDER/ASAIN - 2%

GENDER OF RECIPIENTS



62% female



38% male

44%
1st Generation
College Students

RECIPIENTS THAT TOOK STANDARDIZED TESTS

54%
took the ACT



45%
took the SAT

of **16**
Valedictorians

of **7**
Salutatorians

RECIPIENT ACADEMIC AVERAGES

3.8
GPA

13%
Class Percentage

29
Class Rank

~ SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED IN 2026 ~

~ Adam Carroll Scholarship

Established in 2002 with gifts from the family and friends of Adam Carroll, this scholarship honors the memory of a young man known for his love of people, his zest for life, and his love of sports. An honor graduate of Grand Saline High School, Adam was a gifted baseball player, a handsome guy with an infectious smile, and a young man who had big dreams for his life. One of Adam's favorite sayings was "Always remember who you are, where you come from, and what you represent." Adam Carroll knew who he was, he knew where he came from, both geographically and spiritually, and he knew he represented his family, his school, and his Lord. The Adam Carroll Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior of Grand Saline High School who has participated in high school athletics or cheerleading.



2026 Recipient

Kolbi Phillips - Grand Saline High School



A.D. & Mary Winston Scholarship ~

Mr. and Mrs. Winston were both long-time educators with Tyler ISD who emphasized the importance of higher education. Established by the Winston children, all graduates of Texas A&M, to honor their parents, the A.D. and Mary Winston Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior from Smith County high school entering Texas A&M University.

2026 Recipient

Creedon Rand - Lindale High School

~ Alex Fleming Infinity Scholarship

Born December 4, 1989 in Bedford, Texas, Alex Fleming was a junior at Whitehouse High School where he was respected and admired by students and teachers alike for his numerous achievements. Alex was a member of the National Honor Society, a varsity football and track letterman, and played for the junior varsity baseball team. He was also in the Whitehouse High School Band and Jazz Band. The purpose of the Alex Fleming Infinity Scholarship is to provide assistance to a graduating senior at Whitehouse High School who has participated in the band program for four years and shows high moral character.



2026 Recipient

Thomas Mayo - Whitehouse High School



Natural Gas Society of East Texas Scholarship ~

The Natural Gas Society of East Texas Scholarship is awarded to an undergraduate or graduate student who has declared a major in the energy industry field. Eligible majors may include many degrees offered in engineering or geosciences.

2026 Recipient

Nathan McKinney - Stephen F. Austin State University



Mark W. Allen Memorial Scholarship ~

Mark Allen was an Emmy-award winning journalist and missionary. A multi-talented man, Mark worked in broadcast news, directed and produced a critically-acclaimed film and reality television series, authored a novel based on the Galveston hurricane of 1900, and traveled the world teaching people how to use technology to spread the gospel. Family and friends have established this scholarship fund in honor of Mark to encourage and support creative students attending a school in the University of Texas System.

2026 Recipient

Brynn Bickham - Shelbyville High School

~ Citizens 1st Bank/Perkins Family Foundation State Employee's Children's Scholarship

This scholarship was established through the generosity of Citizens 1st Bank and the Perkins Family Foundation in appreciation of the dedication of State of Texas employees.



2026 Recipients

Jean Choi - Columbia University · Kaitlyn Collins - Wells High School

Kevin Swindell Jr. - Rusk High School

Grace McKinney - Nacogdoches High School

Ava Wise - Whitehouse High School

~ T.J. Ivey Scholarship

The Thomas James Ivey Scholarship supports students from Buffalo High School and Leon High School in Jewett as they enter their freshman year of college.

2026 Recipients

Makenzi Willard & Brylee Ryder - Buffalo High School

Emily Sanchez - Leon High School

Gerald & Charlie Stoker Memorial Scholarship ~

Mr. and Mrs. Stoker were long-time residents of Winnsboro, Texas. Family and friends honored them with this scholarship fund.

2026 Recipient

Logan Sacrey - Winnsboro High School

~ Christy & Jeff Moore Scholarship

This scholarship was established in 2025 to benefit students that attend high school in Gregg, Harrison, Rusk, Smith or Upshur Counties and plan to pursue a degree in education or accounting. Recipients must demonstrate a commitment to their community through extracurricular/volunteer activities and show a commitment to their Christian faith.

2026 Recipient

Mariah Craig - Sabine High School

Roy & Betty Erickson Scholarship ~

Established by Big Sandy residents Betty and Roy Erickson, this scholarship is awarded to graduating high school students in East Texas who have earned a 4.0 GPA and outstanding SAT/ACT scores.

2026 Recipients

Mary Hilton - Longview High School · **Zoey Davis** - Hallsville High School
Robert Callihan - Rusk High School · **William Corr** - Elysian Fields High School
Joseph Moore - Early College High School · **Gaeun Choi** - Brook Hill School
Brooke Collie - Gilmer High School · **Lucas Rogers** - Winnsboro High School



Patsy Key Ponder Scholarship ~

The Patsy Key Ponder Scholarship was established by the generosity of her family in 2024 to honor their mother and grandmother. Patsy was a graduate of Jefferson High School in Jefferson, Texas, and worked as an accountant before she became CFO and Co-Owner of Master WoodCraft Cabinetry. She served as Chairman of the Board of Marshall Hospital and a Trustee of Wiley College. This scholarship will award students from Jefferson High School in Marion County, Texas.

2026 Recipient

Payten Kimble - Jefferson High School

~ Lt. Donaldson Tillar Memorial Scholarship

On February 27, 1991, 1st Lt. Donaldson "Donnie" Preston Tillar III died with eight other soldiers when their Blackhawk helicopter was shot down on the last day of hostilities during Operation Desert Storm. Donnie is the only West Point graduate to die in combat during Operation Desert Storm. This scholarship has been awarded annually to a graduating senior from James I. O'Neill High School since 1992.



2026 Recipient

Erin Smith - James I. O'Neill High School



East Texas Geological Society Scholarship ~

The East Texas Geological Society is an educational organization working to further knowledge in the field of geology for both its professional members and students. Students who are at least sophomores and have declared a major in geology are eligible for this scholarship.

2026 Recipients

Nathan McKinney - Stephen F. Austin State University
Rocco Bowen - Texas Tech University

~ Sherilyn A. Willis, M.D. Medical Scholarship

This scholarship was established by Sherilyn's family to honor her career in medicine. It was created to help support students in medical school who plan to practice medicine in Texas.

2026 Recipient

Bryce Daniel - Texas A&M Medical School





Gary Neel Memorial Scholarship ~

Gary Neel was a very proud and passionate 1972 graduate of Robert E. Lee High School and 1976 graduate of the University of Texas at Austin. At the time of his death, he was a senior district manager at a major pharmaceutical company. His sensitivity, humility, and quiet strength were manifested in his love for his wife, family, co-workers and friends. Gary's love, friendship, and wisdom touched many hearts and made a difference in the lives of all who knew him. Gary's friends and family established this scholarship fund as a legacy to Gary so that deserving Tyler Legacy High School, formerly Robert E. Lee High, graduates may be able to attend the University of Texas.

2026 Recipient

Anna Penkilo - Tyler Legacy High School

~ Whitehouse Young Farmers Scholarship

This scholarship fund was established by an ag booster club to help students attend college who have participated in Agricultural Education while attending Whitehouse High School.

2026 Recipient

Brooklyn Bates - Whitehouse High School



Seeber Tyler ISD Scholarship ~

The Seeber Tyler ISD Scholarship was established to honor former Tyler Mayor Joey Seeber for his years of service to the City of Tyler. Contributions from hundreds of Tylerites established this fund.

2026 Recipient

Jasmine Aguilar - Tyler Legacy High School

~ Jackson Huse Scholarship

Jackson Huse loved everyone and never met a stranger. His gentle smile melted the hearts of those around him. He displayed strength, perseverance, and courage which taught others to look at each day as a blessing. Jackson passed away at age 6 after a brave battle with a brain tumor. He would have graduated from high school in 2019. This scholarship will benefit students like Jackson's sister, Meredith, who were greatly impacted by their sibling's death.

2026 Recipient

Ashby Crosswell - Overton High School



Frances Cowan Gibson Fine Arts Scholarship ~

Frances Cowan Gibson, a native of Tyler, was an accomplished artist who enjoyed drawing, painting, and printmaking. This scholarship will be awarded to students in any major who are pursuing fine arts studies.

2026 Recipient

Jackson Larsh - Tyler Legacy High School

~ David G. & Jacqueline M. Braithwaite Scholarships ~



Dr. David Braithwaite was a brilliant research chemist and Chairman and CEO of Nalco Chemical Company. He was widely recognized in his field for his expertise and innovations.

Mrs. Jacqueline Braithwaite's numerous philanthropic gifts to the Tyler community reflect her life-long interest in the arts as well as her love of her fellow East Texans.

Braithwaite Scholarship in Medicine, Veterinary Medicine & Biotechnology ~

2026 Recipients

Brooke Collie - Gilmer High School · **Jonah Conklin** - Whitehouse High School
Kush Mali - Hallsville High School

~ Braithwaite Scholarship in Chemistry

2026 Recipients

Genevieve Hand - Whitehouse High School · **Jaslene Solis** - Longview High School
William Corr - Elysian Fields High School

Jacqueline M. Braithwaite Scholarship for Nursing at Tyler Junior College ~

2026 Recipients

Yasmin Lopez - Tyler High School · **Rynlee Melton** - Grand Saline High School

~ Braithwaite Scholarship in Vocational-Technical Studies in Medically Related Fields

2026 Recipients

Karlie Cook - Tyler Junior College · **McKenzie Ortigo** - Carthage High School
Adisyn Osborn - Harmony High School · **Kaydence Smith** - Gilmer High School
Camila Hinojosa - Paris High School · **Jose Recio** - Chireno High School
Elizabeth Byrd & Rubi Mejia Suarez - Henderson High School



Willow Brook Country Club Scholarship ~

As a way of honoring its hardworking employees, members established this scholarship in 2024. The scholarship is open to employees - full-time, part-time and seasonal - of Willow Brook Country Club in Tyler, Texas, who are planning to pursue a secondary education.

2026 Recipient

Hannah Boone - Brownsboro High School



Gary D. Penkilo Memorial Scholarship ~

The Gary D. Penkilo Memorial Scholarship was established by Henry & Peters CPA firm in Tyler where Gary was employed for more than 28 years. Gary was a partner at the firm where his co-workers describe him as everyone's biggest fan and an encourager. Gary was a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, an avid golfer and a family man. He served on many nonprofit boards and always left a lasting impression.

2026 Recipients

Parker Haley - Union Grove High School

Chloe Alphin - Harmony High School

~ Gladys & Thomas "T.B." Stewart Scholarships

The Stewarts, life-long residents of Tyler, valued their faith and the role of education in their lives and served as positive role models to young people. Mrs. Stewart was an educator with Tyler ISD for 40 years. It was the Stewarts' desire to make a lasting contribution to their community by rewarding students who share their values of faith, education, and high moral character. This scholarship supports students from Smith County and surrounding area high schools.



2026 Recipients

Lezlie Ibarra - Early College High School

Credon Rand - Lindale High School

America Chavez-Gomez - Frankston High School



Rhonda Penry Scholarship ~

Rhonda Penry was a dedicated teacher at Tarkington Intermediate School in Cleveland, Texas, for 15 years. She taught fifth grade and social studies for a career spanning 25 years in total. Her first students, her three sons, established this scholarship to honor their mother upon her retirement.

2026 Recipient

Ashlyn Primeaux - Tarkington High School

~ Mexia Alumni Scholarship

Established by the Class of 1979, this scholarship was created to leave a lasting endowed legacy that invests in the future of Mexia High School students. This fund provides ongoing scholarship opportunities to deserving graduates of Mexia High School, ensuring that financial need does not stand in the way of academic potential.



2026 Recipient

Adrian Rojas - Mexia High School



Kristi Martin Realty Scholarship ~

The Kristi Martin Realty Scholarship was established in 2025. This scholarship will support graduating high school seniors in Anderson, Cherokee, Rusk and Smith Counties that are planning to major in business, medical sciences, engineering, or architecture.

2026 Recipient

Mollee-Kate DeWolfe - Lindale High School



Lauren Lewis Memorial Scholarship ~

Lauren Lewis was a 2005 graduate of Robert E. Lee High School and a senior at Texas A&M University in College Station at the time of her death. Lauren was a devoted Christian who loved Jesus Christ and served her fellow students and community. She was active in the Maggie Women's Leadership Organization of Texas A&M University and volunteered at a local Boys & Girls Club. Lauren (La La) lived life with gusto. Scholarship recipients must demonstrate high moral character, leadership and community service.

2026 Recipient

Abigail Liedtke- Tyler Legacy High School

~ Dalton & Betty Jones Scholarships ~

The Jones were a generous couple from Henderson, Texas, who established scholarship funds for Rusk County graduating seniors and created opportunities for students to obtain a good education and rewarding careers. They provided opportunities for students wishing to receive vocational training to get into the work as quickly as possible and students wanting to pursue a bachelor's degree.

2026 Vocational/Technical Recipients

Elizabeth Byrd & Rubi Mejia Suarez -Henderson High School

2026 Bachelor's Degree Recipients

Madi Wilson - West Rusk High School

Ashby Crowell - Overton High School

**Joshua Ramirez, Steven Chhuor & Angel Torres -
Henderson High School**



Retail Merchants Association of Tyler Scholarship ~

This scholarship is awarded to graduating seniors from Smith County and selected surrounding school districts who plan to major in business.

2026 Recipients

David Stone, Katelyn Swindell & Edward Zavala - Early College High School

Jared Beaumont, Preston Blakeley & Aiden Vasquez - Whitehouse High School

Brayden Bueno - Tyler Legacy High School · Ava Brown - Winona High School

Jacob Morris - Bishop TK Gorman High School

Campbell Nocilla - New Summerfield High School

~ Leslie Reid Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship was created in memory of Leslie Reid of Murchison who passed away in 2001 from cancer. It was established by her husband, Ron Reid, as a memorial to Leslie's determination, courage, zest for life, and love of showing horses. Recipients must be female students from Henderson, Smith or Van Zandt County who are currently or have been involved in horse show activities.

2026 Recipient

Taylor DesHotel- Tyler Legacy High School



~ **Smith County Baptist Ministers Scholarship**

This scholarship was created by a donor who was the son of a Baptist minister. It serves as both a tribute to the benefactors who made the donor's education possible and as a way to make the same kind of investment in promising young people. It is awarded to dependent children of ordained Baptist ministers serving congregations in Smith County, Texas, that are members of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

2026 Recipients

Claire Cockrell & Annan Coker - Tyler Legacy High School
Kylie Adams - University of Texas at Tyler



Barbara Bass Community College Scholarship ~

Barbara Bass was Tyler's first female mayor, serving from 2008 to 2014. Friends and family funded this scholarship to honor her when she left office due to term limits. She continues to contribute to her community through nonprofit work, as a retired CPA, and by auctioneering for nonprofit events. This scholarship is open to first generation college students who reside within the Tyler city limits and plan to attend a community college.

2026 Recipient

Yazmin Lopez - Tyler High School

~ **Tyler Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association Scholarship**

Citizens who have participated in the Tyler Police Department's Citizens Police Academy know first hand the caliber of the City of Tyler's Police Department. Reflecting their desire to honor and benefit this wonderful group of civil servants, this scholarship is awarded to dependents of Tyler Police Department employees.

2026 Recipient

Xachary Long - Grace Community School

Minton Family Scholarship ~

The Minton Family Scholarship is the legacy of a family who are devoted to the community and to the young people of Sabine County, Texas.

2026 Recipient

Wyatt Heslip - Hemphill High School

~ **Peace Officer & Firefighters Scholarship**

This scholarship was established by the Board of Directors of East Texas Communities Foundation to honor the public officers and firefighters.

2026 Recipient

Trace Sowell - West Sabine High School



Texas Rose Festival Scholarship ~

Smith County graduating seniors and current college students are eligible for the Texas Rose Festival Scholarship. The recipient is invited to participate in Rose Sunday events.

2026 Recipient

Mackenna Deimund - Tyler Legacy High School



Reuland & Barnhart Orthodontics Scholarship ~

Reuland and Barnhart Orthodontics has served as a leading orthodontic practice in the East Texas community for over 20 years. This scholarship is awarded to two high school seniors pursuing careers in healthcare.

2026 Recipients

Logan Sacrey - Winnsboro High School

Raylie Peebles - Mineola High School

~ Joe & Marguerite Davis Scholarship

The Davis Scholarship supports graduating high school seniors at Palestine and Westwood High Schools.

2026 Recipients

Madyson Ferretiz & Ariana Coody - Palestine High School



Tabbotha McGee Memorial Scholarship ~

This scholarship supports graduating high school seniors attending Tyler ISD schools who plan to attend Tyler Junior College and pursue an LVN degree. Tabbotha was a 1988 graduate of John Tyler High School and attended Tyler Junior College where she received licensure as an LVN. She went on to complete her RN and Master's degree passing the required competencies to become a nurse.

2026 Recipient

Yazmin Lopez - Tyler High School

~ R. Don Cowan Music & Performing Arts Scholarship

R. Don Cowan was a founder of Tyler-based TCA Cable. He and his wife, Frances, appreciated and enjoyed music. They were strong supporters of the arts in Tyler. This scholarship is awarded to students who will continue pursuing music and performing arts in college.

2026 Recipient

Avery Ditto - University of Texas at Austin



Walling Family Scholarship ~

The Walling Family Scholarship was established by the generosity of Robert C. and Mattie Walling. Established in 2023, this scholarship will award students studying nursing or pre-med from the Gregg County or Rusk County area.

2026 Recipients

Jaslene Solis - Longview High School

Brynlee Catt - Spring Hill High School

~ Acosta Family Charitable Scholarship

Established in 2021 by the Jesse Acosta family, this scholarship is to be awarded to a graduating high school senior from Chapel Hill High School. Applicants are invited to apply and are nominated by Chapel Hill ISD teachers.

2026 Recipient

Jaikala Hatton - Chapel Hill High School



Carroll & Casey Gurganus Scholarship ~

The Carroll and Casey Gurganus Scholarship was established to benefit outstanding students with financial need at Palestine High School. Recipients should demonstrate leadership ability through participation in extracurricular activities, community service, and/or work experience during high school.

2026 Recipient

David Silvestre - Palestine High School

~ Yamboree Empowerment Scholarship (YES) for Women

The Yamboree Empowerment Scholarship for Women was established in 2023 by the East Texas Yamboree Association and two Gilmer natives with strong ties to the Yamboree, Sally Greene and Laura Potter. YES for Women is a needs-based scholarship, with preference for first-generation college students. This \$5,000 award is designed to empower a young Upshur County woman graduating from a public high school with the financial base she needs to make college a reality.



2026 Recipient

Vannia Romero - Gilmer High School



Allen & Nancy Locklin Scholarship ~

The Allen and Nancy Locklin Scholarship is awarded to a graduating high school senior from Smith County who plans to attend the University of Texas at Tyler. The recipient must demonstrate outstanding citizenship, leadership qualities, Christian devotion, excellent moral character, and a commitment to community service.

2026 Recipient

Lezlie Ibarra - Early College High School

~ Christopher Lyon Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship honors the memory of a young man known for his art, delicate soul, and quirky laugh. Born in 1973 in Greenville, S.C., Chris was an artist by profession. He received his BFA in Drawing, Painting, and Photography from Western Carolina University in 1996 and his MFA in Painting from the University of Pennsylvania in 1999 where he met his wife Alexis, now an art professor at the University of Texas at Tyler. Chris died on January 9, 2007, as a result of a motor vehicle accident. This scholarship was created to remember Chris, encourage young art students, and reward them for their hard work.

2026 Recipient

Tiffany Grassmuck - University of Texas at Tyler





Ben & Florine Ramsey Scholarship ~

Mrs. Ramsey established this scholarship in memory of her husband, Ben, who was extremely proud of his hometown of San Augustine, Texas, and who believed in the importance of education.

2026 Recipient

KeyAsia Jackson - San Augustine High School

~ Smith County Bar Foundation Scholarship

The Smith County Bar Foundation exists to further justice and the rule of law in Smith County, Texas, by educating and serving its citizens through programs designed to assist those affected by the justice system. Created in 2023, the Foundation created a scholarship to support students that are focusing on a career intended for the legal profession.

2026 Recipients

Catie Espiricueta - Early College High School

Julie Lowery - Elysian Fields High School



Pasha Zapolsky Memorial Scholarship ~

Pasha Zapolsky was an international boarding student from Ukraine that attended The Brook Hill School. Pasha's goal in coming to the United States was to continue his education and achieve his dream of impacting the lives of others. However, a drunk driver cut his life short on March 4, 2015, in a car crash two months before Pasha's high school graduation. This scholarship was established to make a difference in the lives of high school seniors pursuing higher education.

2026 Recipient

Zoey Hinton - Brownsboro High School

Buck Florence & Thomas C. Turner Scholarship ~

This scholarship was created by the families of Buck Florence and Thomas C. Turner and is awarded to graduating seniors from Hughes Springs High School in East Texas.

2026 Recipient

Madilyn Derrick - Hughes Springs High School

~ Kathy's Kids Scholarship

This scholarship fund is established in honor of Kathy Smith. Born in 1962 with a rare genetic condition known as Seckel Syndrome, Kathy has spent her entire life unable to speak, but communicates very well through body language and audible sounds. She has made a difference in the lives of the residents living at Richmond State School where she has resided since 1974. This scholarship fund honors the life of Kathy Smith by providing educational scholarships to young women in the Longview area who, like Kathy, have faced challenges.

2026 Recipient

Jaslene Solis - Longview High School

~ Fredrick Michael Nachman Scholarship

Fredrick (Mike) M. Nachman graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a degree in Business Administration. He served in the Air Force Reserves and was a University of Texas Exes Life member. He started his career with Leasing Associates, Inc. in 1970 and in 2001 became CEO and sole owner. He was respected for his fair and ethical business practices. Mike loved hunting, fishing, and watching football. He was a loving family man. Created by the Nachman family in remembrance of their father, this scholarship is awarded to a Smith County or Houston Bellaire High School graduating senior majoring in business at the University of Texas at Austin.



2026 Recipient

Robert Bergfeld - Tyler Legacy High School



East Texas Estate Planning Council Scholarship ~

The core value of the National Association of Estate Planners and Councils is that the team concept of estate planning best serves the client. This scholarship is open to graduating East Texas high school seniors who demonstrate the motivation to pursue a career in one of the primary disciplines engaged on the estate planning team such as accounting, law, finance, insurance, and philanthropic planning.

2026 Recipient

Graci Satterwhite - Cayuga High School

~ Brook Hill Founder's Scholarship

Steve Dement created this scholarship to enable students attending the college preparatory school he founded, The Brook Hill School, were able to continue their education at Baylor University where he earned three degrees. Mr. Dement's faith guides all his ventures as he models for his students how to honor, serve, and rely upon God in all that they do.



2026 Recipient

Emerson Lake - The Brook Hill School

Donald Scott Cooper Nursing Foundation Scholarship ~

This scholarship was established by Donald Scott Cooper to encourage students from Gregg, Rusk, and Smith Counties who plan to major in nursing. Mr. Cooper has received excellent nursing care throughout his life and, in turn, hopes to repay the profession of nursing with this award.

2026 Recipient

Lezlie Ibarra - Early College High School



John Reagan Harris Scholarship ~

The John Reagan Harris Scholarship is the legacy of a man who was devoted to his community, his church, and education. Mr. Harris earned a degree in business and music at Baylor University, then returned to his hometown of Center, Texas, to teach high school students. He was generous, articulate, and attentive to detail. This fund was established upon his death to help students from Center High School attend college.

2026 Recipients

Nathan Newton, Eliezer Leon & Laribel Galvan - Center High School



Earl Campbell Tyler Rose High School Scholarship ~

The Earl Campbell Tyler Rose High School Scholarship was established by SPORTyler, Inc. in 2014. This scholarship is awarded to graduating seniors from Smith County high schools that participate in varsity athletics programs. The intent of the Earl Campbell Scholarship is to encourage student athletes to succeed on and off the field. Recipients should exemplify the following characteristics: integrity, teamwork, sportsmanship, persistence and community involvement.

2026 Recipient

Genevieve Hand - Whitehouse High School

~ Byers Family Foundation Scholarship

This scholarship was established by the Byers Family Foundation in 2023 to provide scholarships for students from Rusk High School in Cherokee County, Texas.

2026 Recipient

Robert Callihan - Rusk High School



Lady Denise Sanders Robertson Scholarship ~

Established by New Life Community Church in 2024, this scholarship honors the legacy of Lady Denise for inspiring youth. This scholarship supports African American students graduating from high school or non-traditional students from Smith County as well as non-traditional students attending a college or university in Smith County.

2026 Recipient

Tristen Taylor - Tyler High School

~ Sidney Moughon Scholarships ~

Sidney Rex Moughon lived his entire life in Gilmer except the time he spent in college at SMU which he attended on a football scholarship. He was a Christian man who loved the Lord and lived his faith every day as a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. Sidney worked at Gilmer National Bank, Lone Star Steel, and T&N Railroad. He spent the final 30 years of his life doing what he really loved - raising cattle on his acreage east of town.

Sidney Rex Moughon Texas A&M Scholarship ~

The scholarship supports students attending Texas A&M University.

2026 Recipients

Jared Beaumont - Whitehouse High School

Creedon Rand - Lindale High School

Cassie Coleman - Winnsboro High School

Julia Garrick - Bullard High School



~ Sidney Rex Moughon Scholarship

The scholarship is open to non-traditional students and graduating seniors at high schools in Upshur and surrounding counties.

2026 Recipients

William Corr & Julie Lowery - Elysian Fields High School

Halie Shirley - Winnsboro High School · Jaslene Solis - Longview High School

~ Lake Fork Fishing Scholarship

Established at East Texas Communities Foundation in 2023, the Lake Fork Fishing Scholarship will be awarded to graduating high school seniors in East Texas that are proficient in angling skills and achievements.

2026 Recipients

Cason Mills - Cayuga High School · **Colt James** - Palestine High School
Caleb Roseman - Tyler Legacy High School · **Morgan Payne** - Kilgore High School



Juliette Low's Amazing Girls Scholarship ~

This scholarship honors Doris Riehm for her 65 years of service to Girl Scouts as a troop leader, Chair of the Girl Scouts World Committee and founding member of the International Ulave-Baden Powell Society.

2026 Recipient

Jacqueline Magana - Early College High School

~ Henry & Evelyn Jordan Scholarship

Evelyn Davis Jordan graduated from Palestine High School at age 15 and studied music at SMU and Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. Native Alabaman, Henry Latimer Jordan, started his law practice in Houston but came to Palestine as soon as he could, on the train, carrying only a suitcase and typewriter. The Jordans were married on Christmas Day, 1938. They enjoyed motivating young people to be their best.

2026 Recipient

Kelsee Hogard - Palestine High School



Richard B. & Mary Lou Hamm Scholarship ~

Mr. Hamm was active in the oil and gas business. After retiring to Bullard, the Hamms chose to give back to that community by funding a scholarship for Bullard High School graduates attending the University of Texas at Tyler.

2026 Recipients

Ethan Foster & Elliana Wildt - Bullard High School

~ Winnie Frank Woolverton Scholarship

Winnie Frank Griffith Woolverton and her husband, B.G., traveled and worked in the oil fields before returning to Anderson County where their descendants were early settlers of the Tennessee Colony community. This scholarship is awarded to a male student at Palestine High School.

2026 Recipient

David Silvestre - Palestine High School

Wayne & Margie Morrison Scholarship ~

Wayne and Margie Morrison believed in always paying it forward and established this scholarship to benefit Smith County graduating seniors attending a four-year college or university in East Texas.

2026 Recipients

Lezlie Ibarra - Early College High School · **Connor Kole** - Whitehouse High School

~ Helen Elbert Scholarship

Helen Elbert's musical ability was evident as a child. Beginning at the age of 10, she was the regular pianist for her church. She went on to earn a degree in music with a concentration in piano and had a 52-year career as an outstanding piano teacher, church musician, and chamber music performer. This scholarship was established by the East Texas Music Teachers Association with gifts from Mrs. Elbert's friends and family. It will be awarded to an East Texas graduating senior who plans to major in music.



2026 Recipient

Dean Kuhl - Canton High School



Jean & Jim Gulley Texas Tech Scholarship ~

Established by friends and family to honor Mr. and Mrs. Gulley, this scholarship is supported by an annual memorial golf tournament. Recipients must follow in the footsteps of the Gulley family by attending Texas Tech University.

2026 Recipient

Brooke Collie - Gilmer High School

~ Ben & Bettye Bitz Scholarship

Ben and Bettye Bitz enjoyed their retirement years in Berryville, Texas, where they were actively involved in their church and community. They generously supported youth education. Ben was a WWII veteran who proudly served his country during the Normandy invasion, earning a Purple Heart. Betty was a member of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. This scholarship supports students from Frankston and LaPoyner High Schools.



2026 Recipient

America Chavez-Gomez - Frankston High School

TJC Sisterhood Legacy Scholarship~

Sans Souci and Zeta Phi Omega were two of several sororities and Greek fraternities at Tyler Junior College during the 1960s through the mid-80s. Girls who pledged these sororities came from all walks of life throughout Texas. In addition, there were other girls who didn't pledge but became sisters just the same. The TJC Sisterhood Legacy Scholarship will be awarded to a deserving female senior from a Texas high school who plans to attend Tyler Junior College.

2026 Recipient

Lacey Whetsell - Jacksonville High School



Larry R. Smith First Responders Scholarship ~

This scholarship was established by the Larry R. Smith & Friends Smiles Fore Kids Golf Tournament committee. This scholarship is intended to help students that desire to pursue a career in public safety.

2026 Recipients

Katrina Kunkel - Whitehouse High School

Ethan Foster - Bullard High School

~ Tim King Memorial Scholarship

Tim King was a graduate of Robert E. Lee High School and the University of Texas at Austin. He began working for Brookshire Grocery Company at the age of 16 as a bag boy and stocker. At the time of his death, Tim was Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. He was active in Texas Society of CPAs, Texas Retailers Association, Big Brothers-Big Sisters, Salvation Army, Children's Advocacy Center, and Tyler Economic Development Council. He was truly a servant leader, but mostly he was a loving husband, father, and son. Family and friends have established this scholarship fund in honor of Tim for Tyler Legacy High School, formerly Robert E. Lee, graduates studying at the University of Texas.



2026 Recipient

Anna Penkilo - Tyler Legacy High School



Robinson Family Memorial Scholarship ~

The Robinson Family Memorial Scholarship was established to benefit students at Lovelady High School and Bedias, Texas, residents attending Madisonville High School. The Robinsons were champions of education in their hometowns.

2026 Recipients

Madisyn Burleson & Brady McCullough - Lovelady High School

~ Ophelia Denton Scholarships ~

The Ophelia Denton Scholarships were established in 2021 to benefit students at Palestine High School, Westwood High School and Elkhart High School, all in Anderson County, Texas. These scholarships were intended to aid persons who wish to receive vocational training to get into the work force and those students wanting to pursue a bachelor's degree.

2026 Vocational/Technical Studies Recipient

Jess Kiser - Palestine High School

2026 Bachelor's Degree Recipient

David Silvestre - Palestine High School



Partners in Arts Scholarship ~

This scholarship is awarded to Smith County graduating seniors who have actively participated in one of the performing or visual arts such as band, choir, dance, orchestra, theater arts or visual art and who plan to major in the visual or performing arts in college.

2026 Recipient

Kianna Sanchez - Tyler Legacy High School



Tatum Music Scholarship ~

Tatum Music Company has served East Texas school band programs for over 70 years, meeting the needs of both student musicians and area music educators. Several former outstanding band directors have owned Tatum Music Company throughout its history. The current owner, Doice Grant, established this scholarship fund benefit future instrumental music educators.

2026 Recipients

Jasiah Perkins - Marshall High School

Stephanie Wilson - White Oak High School

~ Sammy Joe & Martha Jean Calhoun Family Scholarships ~

Established by Martha Jean Calhoun, these scholarships are to be awarded to a graduating high school senior of any public, private high school or homeschool in one of the counties services by ETCF. One scholarship is specifically for students pursuing a career in ministry. One scholarship is specifically for students pursuing a career focusing on caring for mentally and physically challenged persons.



Calhoun Family Scholarship for Disability Studies ~

2026 Recipients

Alyssa Singleton · Rebecca Orr - Jacksonville High School

Julia Garrick - Bullard High School

~ Calhoun Family Scholarship for Ministerial Studies

2026 Recipients

Charles Furr - Grace Community School · **Rylie Hill** - Whitehouse High School

~ Sammy Joe Calhoun Clarksville High School Scholarships ~

The Sammy Joe Calhoun Clarksville High School Scholarship Fund was established in 2021 through the generosity of his wife, Mrs. Martha Jean Calhoun. Sammy Joe was a 1947 graduate of Clarksville High School and a Korean War Veteran. He retired from Frito Lay after 33 years of service and partnered with his wife in an advertising specialty company. He passed away after a long illness in 2007. These scholarships will be awarded to Clarksville High School graduating seniors from Clarksville, Texas, pursuing a bachelor's degree or a vocational/technical degree.

Clarksville High School Scholarship for Bachelor's Degree ~

2026 Recipients

Allison Reyna, Jeremie Uraga, Jamariya Moore & Tristan Nunez - Clarksville High School



~ Clarksville High School Scholarship for Vocational/Technical Studies

no recipients awarded in 2026

~ Kyle Lake Foundation Scholarships ~

The Kyle Lake Foundation Scholarship was brought to ETCF in 2025 and originally established in memory of Kyle Lake, the 1990 captain of the Robert E. Lee men's soccer team and the 1995 athletic director of The Brook Hill School Sports Camp. Kyle impacted thousands for Christ with his Christ-centered life and contagious personality. This scholarship will benefit four students: a male and female student who have demonstrated their Christian faith while playing soccer at Tyler Legacy High School, and a male and female student who have demonstrated their Christian faith while participating in athletics at The Brook Hill School.

Brook Hill School Scholarships ~

2026 Recipients

Emma Brady & Jose Gonzalez Brito - Brook Hill School



~ Tyler Legacy High School Scholarships

2026 Recipients

Isabella McNeil & Kevin Holland - Tyler Legacy High School

~ Faulconer Scholarships ~

Through the generosity of Tyler-based Faulconer Energy Company, and its visionary founder, the late Vernon Faulconer, this scholarship will be awarded to a male and a female minority student graduating from Tyler ISD in Tyler, Texas.

2026 Female Recipient

Jacqueline Magana - Early College High School

2026 Male Recipient

Caleb Amateco - Early College High School



Captain William Barron Chapter Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Scholarship~

This scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior from Smith, Wood, Upshur, Rusk, Cherokee, Anderson, Van Zandt or Rains County in East Texas.

2026 Recipient

Emerson West - Ore City High School

~ Hispanic Professionals of Tyler (HPAT) Scholarship

Hispanic Professionals Association of Tyler is a group of community leaders working to create and implement initiatives that promote professional development, community involvement, and cultural awareness for Tyler and the surrounding areas. This professional group of experienced business leaders, entrepreneurs, educators, and community activists wanted to create an avenue to support future generations of leaders through scholarships. The hope is that recipients of the HPAT scholarship will become leaders in their community by supporting them in their growth as a professional and welcome them into this network of diverse professionals.



2026 Recipients

Jasmine Aguilar - Tyler Legacy High School

Catie Espiricueta - Early College High School

America Chavez-Gomez - Frankston High School

Osiris Tinajero - Brownsboro High School



Tyler City Employees Credit Union Scholarship ~

Established in 2023, the Tyler City Employees Credit Union Scholarship will be awarded to a graduating high school senior or non-traditional students. This scholarship is for Tyler City Employee Credit Union members, dependents of a TCECU member or someone that meets the requirements to become a TCECU member.

2026 Recipient

Lezlie Ibarra - Early College High School

~ Kenny Ponder Master Woodcraft Scholarship

Master WoodCraft Cabinetry, LLC is committed to excellent craftsmanship to create a workplace environment that truly cares for its employees, customers, and community in Jefferson and Marshall, Texas. This scholarship honors Kenneth (Kenny) Ponder who started as a laborer and worked his way up to Executive Vice President of Master WoodCraft, his family's kitchen cabinet business, where he served until his untimely passing in 2017. Mr. Ponder earned a degree in Manufacturing Technology from North Carolina State University. This scholarship will support students pursuing a career in wood technology or a related field.



2026 Recipient

John Slattery - Lewisville High School

Glenn & Vivian Prater Memorial Scholarship ~



Although neither of the Praters was able to attend college due to financial reasons, they were firm believers in education. Mrs. Prater taught kindergarten before it was part of the public school system. She also sold World Book Encyclopedias. Mr. Prater was valedictorian of his high school class. His passion was working with Boy Scouts. He mentored 12 Eagle Scouts as a Scoutmaster and received the Woodbadge and Silver Beaver Awards. This scholarship is to be awarded to an Eagle Scout from Liberty County or an ETCF county accepted to or currently attending Texas A&M University.

2026 Recipient

Robert Callihan - Rusk High School

~ Hugh P. Brown Memorial Scholarship

The Hugh P. Brown Memorial Scholarship was established by Mr. Brown's family to support students studying automotive technology. Born in 1890, Hugh only attended school through 3rd grade because he was needed on the family farm in Tennessee. Perhaps that is how he gained his repair skills. In fact, the lack of an education never stopped Hugh. He was well-read and had a photographic memory. By 1917, he was working as a mechanic in Texas when he ditched a motorcycle in front of a beautiful young lady's home. That young lady quickly came to his aid and became his wife, Lola!



2026 Recipient

Caden Ford - Rusk High School

Hubert "Hub" McGlothin Scholarship ~



Hubert "Hub" McGlothin, HMCS, USNR, was highly decorated and served with valor during his two tours of duty in Vietnam and in many countries around the world. After retiring from the Navy, Hub graduated from Our Lady of Holy Cross College and went on to teach and coach in South Louisiana and East Texas for more than 20 years. In 2021, Hub's friends and family established this scholarship fund as a legacy to him so that deserving Winona High School and Cross Roads High School graduates may be able to attend college.

2026 Recipient

Natalia Abarca - Cross Roads High School

~ Every Last Inning Memorial Scholarship

The Every Last Inning Memorial Scholarship was created by the E.L.I. Foundation which honors the spirit of Rawly Eliazar Sanchez (Eli) who lost his life on July 4, 2024. Eli was a gifted student and baseball player. He was a magnetic soul with a friendly smile, which allowed him to serve as a leader and mentor to those in his circle. He was known for his selflessness, his love for the game of baseball, and giving back to his community.



2026 Recipient

Aiden Vasquez - Whitehouse High School



Ted & Dru Glazener Vo/Tech Scholarship ~

This scholarship was established in 2025 to benefit students graduating from Winnsboro High School that were wanting to pursue a vo/tech degree or certification.

2026 Recipient

Piper Tessem - Winnsboro High School

~ Owens Marmion Barke Clinical Health Counseling Scholarship

The purpose is to provide educational scholarships for UT Tyler students preparing for careers in the field of mental health counseling with a preference for graduate students that are underrepresented in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program.



2025 Recipient (awarded in late May 2025)

Bianey Jimenez - University of Texas at Tyler

The 2026 scholarship has not been awarded at the time of printing.

~ RENEWING SCHOLARSHIPS NOT AWARDED IN 2026 ~

Raymond E. Jackson & Mira R. Rogers Scholarship~

This scholarship was established to provide educational opportunities for African-American students with financial need from Liberty High School who are residents of the either Ames or Liberty, Texas, in Liberty County, Texas.

2026 Renewing Recipient

Lillie Knepper - Texas A&M University

~ Eiche Family Scholarship

The Eiche Family Scholarship will support graduating high school seniors from schools located in Smith County, Texas. The recipient may attend any college or university in the 32 East Texas counties included in the Foundation's service area.

2026 Renewing Recipient

Lane Gray - Tyler Junior College



Kay Howry & Freda Harder Encouragement Scholarship ~

The Kay Howry and Freda Harder Encouragement Scholarship honors the legacy of these educators and the positive impact they made on their students. Kay and Freda had the ability to motivate, inspire, encourage and help students see their personal strength and potential. This scholarship is available for graduating seniors from Tyler High School, Early College High School, and RISE in Tyler, Texas; LaPoyner High School in LaRue, Texas and Brownboro High School in Brownsboro, Texas.

2026 Renewing Recipient

Stephanie Esparza - University of Texas at Tyler

~ Winifried K. George Scholarship

Established by Winifred George, this scholarship is to be awarded to a Smith County graduating senior who plans to attend Abilene Christian University.

2026 Renewing Recipient

Audrey Brody - Abilene Christian University



Joey Johnson Memorial Scholarship ~

The Joey Johnson Memorial Scholarship was established in 2019 with gifts from family and friends that honors the life of a young man who was caring and giving. A 1982 graduate of Overton High School, Joey attended Kilgore College and was working at Kentucky Fried Chicken in Kilgore at the time of his death. This scholarship supports students from Gladewater High School, Sabine High School, West Rusk High School or Overton High School.

2026 Renewing Recipient

Madisyn Bedair - University of Arkansas

~ Reily Foundation Scholarship

The Reily family are graduates of Tyler ISD, with several family members also proudly graduating from the University of Texas at Tyler Soules College of Business. In an effort to pay it forward, the Reily's established this scholarship to give other Tyler ISD students the opportunity to earn a business degree.

2026 Renewing Recipient

Alan Miranda - University of Texas at Tyler



St. Paul Presbyterian Legacy Scholarship ~

The St. Paul Presbyterian Legacy Scholarship was established in 2024 by the Grace Presbytery of Northeast Texas after the sale of the St. Paul Presbyterian Church, which was located in Carthage, Texas. This scholarship supports students living in the Grace Presbytery.



2026 Renewing Recipients

Sam Watson - Stephen F. Austin State University

Ashtyn Milam - Northwestern State University

Alicia Love - Southern Arkansas University

Brayden Rigoulot - Texas Women's University

~ Nancy A. Berkhouse Classical Art Scholarship

Established by the family of Nancy A. Berkhouse. This scholarship will be awarded to a current college student who is pursuing the Classicism, Realism, or Classical Realism painting genre. Nancy's passion was the beauty of God's creation and appreciation of those artists who sought to capture that beauty realistically.

2026 Renewing Recipient

Ellia He - Hillsdale College



~ SCHOLARSHIPS NOT AWARDED IN 2026 ~

Nickolas-Trusczkowska Scholarship ~

Established in 2020, the Nickolas-Trusczkowska Scholarship is for students, current or new to college, who are recovering from addiction.

~ Edna Faulk Haberle Visual Arts Scholarship

The Edna Faulk Haberle Visual Arts Scholarship was established in 2019 by the Haberle family to honor Mrs. Haberle on her birthday. The scholarship will provide financial assistance to students from Cherokee and surrounding counties who plan to major in visual arts.



Randy Willmon Scholarship ~

Randy Willmon was a brave firefighter who led by example and was the model of what a man should be. He held the rank of Captain for the City of Dallas Fire Department, where he served for 28 years and also served on the Lindale Fire Department for 9 years. Randy set an example of how to live life. He was devoted to loving God, his family, and his many friends. Steve and Lynn Winston established this scholarship for a deserving Smith County graduate to earn a certification in Firefighting at Tyler Junior College in honor of their friend.

Hackler/DAI-FLY: Empowering Women to do Great Things Scholarship

Established in 2025, this scholarship was created to support women with a dedicated interest in pursuing careers more often obtained by men. The belief is that women have creative minds that enable them to excel at communications, computer science, IT technology and/or political science professions. It is also believed that reading is the most valuable life skill to have. Female students seeking an undergraduate degree in communications, a science or technical field or a Master's in Education degree with a focus on reading will be considered for this scholarship.



Edwin and Aurora Buckner Vo/Tech Healthcare Scholarship ~

The Edwin and Aurora Buckner Vo/Tech Healthcare Scholarship was established in 2025. The Buckner's met early one morning through divine intervention on the St. Charles street car in New Orleans. Once married they moved to Longview where Edwin joined a medical practice and Aurora served as a busy wife and mother. This scholarship supports graduating high school students from Gregg County that are wanting to pursue a Vocational/Technical degree in the healthcare industry.

~ ESTABLISHING A SCHOLARSHIP ~

Scholarships are often established by individuals or organizations to support academic interests or to memorialize a loved one. Scholarship funds provide deserving students the opportunity to attend a certain school or pursue a field of study which was meaningful to a donor. Businesses and civic groups may set up scholarship funds to encourage students to pursue a related field of study, honor a founder or long-time employee, or to encourage the next generation of community leaders.



How it Works ~

Create & Name the Fund

ETCF staff will walk you through the process of naming and creating the scholarship fund so that it meets your charitable goals. You may create your scholarship through a variety of contributions including cash, real estate, securities, business interests, mineral interests or retirement assets. The minimum for an endowed scholarship is \$10,000.

Tax Smart Giving

When you create your fund at ETCF, a public charity, you may be eligible for a tax deduction for contributions up to 30% of your adjusted gross income (AGI) in appreciated assets or 60% AGI in gifts of cash.



Scholarship Season

ETCF staff work tirelessly from early fall through spring overseeing the scholarship program. Students apply through an online application portal which allows students to qualify for multiple awards from our many unique scholarship funds. ETCF staff work with donors, recruit volunteers and facilitate the evaluation committees to review the applicants. Recipients are awarded scholarships based upon criteria established by the donor at the time the fund was created.



Administration & Recognition

ETCF distributes the scholarship funds directly to the institution that the recipient plans to attend. ETCF staff also follow up with students if the scholarship is renewable. Quarterly investment updates are mailed to fund representatives to keep them aware of market activity and fund balances.

Once scholarships are awarded, ETCF staff notify the students and their school administrators. ETCF celebrates the accomplishments of these hard-working students by hosting a reception in mid-May where donors, ETCF board, staff, and family of the recipient are invited to take part in celebrating the student's success.



315 N. Broadway Ave. | Suite 210 | Tyler, Texas 75702
www.ETCF.org | 903-533-0208 | scholarships@etcf.org