



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lindsay Hearn, Communications Director, at 828-367-9908

The Community Foundation Awards Scholarships totaling \$540,000

(May 2018) - The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina recently approved scholarships totaling \$540,000 to 103 students in 59 schools in 19 counties in Western North Carolina. Sixty volunteers from the community worked to review applications and select recipients.

Top recipients were:

- **Michael Byrd** from **Martin L. Nesbitt Discovery Academy** was awarded the Irving Jacob Reuter Award valued at \$40,000 over four years. He plans to attend UNC Chapel Hill.
- **Natalie Gabriel** from **Asheville High School** was awarded the Marilyn Lester and William Lester Scholarship valued at \$40,000.00 over four years. She plans to attend UNC Chapel Hill.
- **Ada McKinney** from Mitchell High School was awarded the Charles C. and Suzanne R. McKinney Scholarship valued at \$30,000.00 over four years.
- **Antonio Flores** from **Clyde A. Erwin High School** was awarded the Nathaniel Ellis Cannady Jr. Scholarship valued at \$30,000.00 over four years. He plans to attend UNC Charlotte.

- **Jeshua Pott** from **Martin L. Nesbitt Discovery Academy** was awarded the Nathaniel Ellis Cannady Jr. Scholarship valued at \$30,000.00 over four years. He plans to attend Western Carolina University.
- **Shivani Patel** from **East Henderson High School** was awarded the Nathaniel Ellis Cannady Jr. Scholarship valued at \$30,000.00 over four years. She plans to attend NC State University.
- **Morgan Mathis** from **Andrews High School** was awarded the Reichman Scholarship valued at \$30,000.00 over four years. She plans to pursue a degree in Nursing through the RIBN (Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses) program through Southwestern Community College and Western Carolina University.
- **Aionna Hyatt** from **Asheville High School** was awarded the Clyde and Mildred Wright Endowment Fund Scholarship valued at \$20,000.00. She plans to attend North Carolina A&T State University.

Scholarship endowments can have broad eligibility criteria or can be focused on a particular school or county, offered to students pursuing a degree in a stated field or available to those who will attend a designated college or university.

“The quality of our applicants was so high that selecting the finalists was tough,” said David Williamson, Waynesville resident and first-year member of the WNC Regional Scholarship Committee. “Awarding scholarships to such accomplished students is inspiring. I look forward to their future success and contributions as worthy representatives of Western North Carolina schools and communities.”

CFWNC is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2018. CFWNC works with families, businesses and nonprofits to strengthen communities through the creation of charitable funds and strategic grantmaking. A permanent charitable resource, the Foundation manages over 1,060 funds and has facilitated more than \$216 million in philanthropy since its founding in 1978. CFWNC continues to evolve to help donors and nonprofits meet their charitable goals and to serve the ever-changing needs of Western North Carolina and beyond. Learn more at www.cfwnc.org.

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