

MCALLEN AFT NEWS

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TEXAS AFL-CIO AWARDS 30 SCHOLARSHIPS

Thirty students from affiliated union families in Texas have earned a \$1,000 advance on their college educations, courtesy of the 2015 Texas AFL-CIO Scholarship Program.

Central Labor Councils and the Texas AFL-CIO Scholarship Committee considered about 150 applications. High school seniors underwent interviews and a written test on the labor movement as part of the application process. Applicants for Continuing Scholarships – four of whom were chosen to receive the grants – discussed their volunteer and public service activities while in college.

Other criteria for the scholarships include academic records, extracurricular activities and financial need.

The Texas AFL-CIO pays the one-time grants directly to college financial aid offices to be credited to the accounts of recipients. Funding of scholarships for all the semi-finalists chosen by the Central Labor Councils is made possible through the Texas AFL-CIO Scholarship Fund.

Texas AFL-CIO President Becky Moeller, who will retire at the Texas AFL-CIO Constitutional Convention and once chaired the state federation's Scholarship Committee, said awarding the grants has always been one of the best things about her job.

"The Texas AFL-CIO Scholarship Program is a multi-faceted tool," Moeller said.

"It delivers funds to students who in some cases might not get started with their higher education otherwise. It introduces or reminds high school seniors of basics about the labor movement that they might never have been taught in public school. It involves some outstanding volunteers in our Central Labor Council on important business of the union movement. The Scholarship Program, for me, has been a labor of love and I am proud to be leaving it in strong shape."

Moeller noted the Scholarship Fund is a 501(c)3 organization, allowing donors to deduct contributions on federal income tax returns to the full extent of the law.

Brother Danny Cooke, who oversaw deliberations of the Scholarship Committee, praised the quality of applicants. He was joined on the panel by Sister Clara Caldwell, Dr. Bobbie Thompson, Brother Ed Reid and Brother Jeff Darby.

"As always, the parents of the students have paved the way for their children to succeed in the Scholarship Program through their union activities," Cooke said. "Looking at the applications, it is also obvious that they have done an outstanding job of preparing them for the world of work."

An outpouring of donations to the scholarship fund took place this year after the deaths of Texas AFT President Linda Bridges and former Texas AFL-CIO President Hank Brown. Others being memorialized in 2015 through donations of full scholarships include: Dorothy Gunn, George Hooper (IAM), Everett Taylor (brother of Dorothy Gunn) and Chad Young (UFCW).

Because of the unprecedented number of donors this year, for the first time the box listing donors on Page 1 must be carried to the inside of this newsletter. Also, because of the larger number of scholarships awarded this year, John Patrick's column is postponed to the next newsletter.

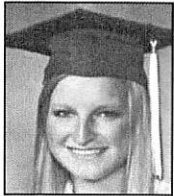
Donors of one or more full scholarships include: American Income Life, American Federation of Teachers Staff Union, Hank Brown Family, CWA 6215, Joe & the late Dorothy Gunn, IUOE Local 450, Lassiter Law Firm, Phillip Lord, Plumbers Local 68, Texas AFT, Texas State Council of Machinists, Union Labor Life Insurance Co. and United Way of San Antonio (honoring Mike Edwards of the Laborers' Union).

Scholarship Winners

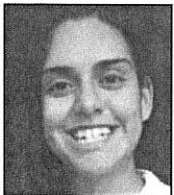
Samuel Parga-Guerrero of Corpus Christi. Ranked in the top quarter of his class at King High School, Guerrero plans to attend UT-San Antonio. He participated in Skills USA, Chemistry Club, Band, Jazz Band and soccer. Parga-Guerrero is the son of René Saenz and Stephanie Guerrero. Brother Saenz and Sister Guerrero are members of American Federation of Teachers Local 3456. (Coastal Bend; Texas AFT, In Memory of Linda Bridges)



Kristin Pavliska of Hallettsville. Ranked 10th in her class at Hallettsville High School, Pavliska plans to attend Texas A&M University. She was head varsity cheerleader and participated in tennis, volleyball, basketball, track, National Honor Society and many other activities. Pavliska is the daughter of Harvey and Cheryl Pavliska. Brother Pavliska is a member of United Steelworkers Local 4370. (Victoria; In Memory of Hank Brown)



Leanna Peru of El Paso. Ranked 5th in her class at Mission Early College High School, Peru plans to attend UT-El Paso. She participated in Academic Decathlon, National Honor Society, Math & Engineering Club, Business Professionals of America and Science Bowl. Peru is the daughter of Gabriel Peru and Susana Aguilera. Sister Aguilera is a member of American Federation of Government Employees Local 2516. (El Paso; IUOE Local 450)



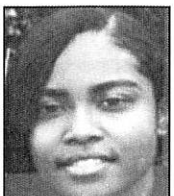
Arrian N. Porter of Fort Worth. One of the Continuing Scholarship recipients, Porter attends the University of Houston. She volunteered with CWA Local 6201 and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists on a project to help underprivileged children around Christmas time. She also wrote letters and called legislators in an effort to stop the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership. Porter is the daughter of Arnise Porter. Sister Porter is a member of Communications Workers of America Local 6201. (In Memory of Linda Bridges)



Brent Reed Jr. of Arlington. Ranked in the top half of his class at Kennedale High School, Reed plans to attend University of Minnesota, Crookston. He participated in football, powerlifting, and track and field. Reed is the son of Brent and Doris Reed. Brother Reed is a member of NCFLL AFGE Local 2139 and Sister Reed is a member of United Auto Workers 12. (Tarrant)



Mia Renae Rochon of Pearland. Carrying a 4.47 out of 5 average at Incarnate Word Academy, which does not rank students, Rochon plans to attend Baylor University. She participated in martial arts, music, handbells, dance and debate. Rochon is the daughter of Michael and Shewanna Rochon. Brother Rochon is a member of United Steelworkers Local 13-1. (Harris)

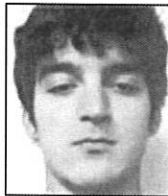


Annie Samuel of Sugar Land. Ranked in the top 10 percent of her class at L.V. Hightower High School, Samuel plans to attend the University of Houston. She participated in National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Children's Church and Future Business Leaders of America. Samuel is the daughter of James and Aleyamma Samuel. Sister Samuel is a member of American Federation of Government Employees Local 1633. (Harris)

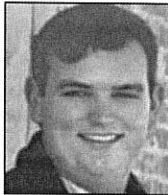


Abby Tiemann of Taylor. Ranked in the top 10 percent of her class at Hutto High School, Tiemann plans to attend Texas A&M University. She participated in Family Career and Community Leaders of America. Tiemann is the daughter of Curtis and Amy Tiemann. Sister Tiemann is a member of American Federation of Teachers Local 8000. (Austin)

Jordan Varner of Panhandle. Ranked 38th in his class at Panhandle High School, Varner plans to attend South Plains College. He participated in football, robotics and track. Varner is the son of Amy Rodriguez. Sister Rodriguez is a member of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Local 1255. (Amarillo; Texas State Council of Machinists, In Memory of George Hooper)



Keaton J. Vawter of Paradise. Ranked 19th in his class Bridgeport High School, Vawter had not indicated his college choice by the time of publication of this newsletter. Vawter participated in 4-H, football, Skills USA, powerlifting and tennis. Vawter is the son of Troy and Janie Vawter. Brother and Sister Vawter are members of Transport Workers Union Local 567. (Tarrant)



Reyna Villalovos of Manor. Carrying a 3.23 average at Manor High School, Villalovos plans to attend Austin Community College. She participated in PALS, Criminal Justice and dance. Villalovos is the daughter of Jesse Villalovos and Janie Serna. Brother Villalovos is a member of AFSCME and Sister Serna is a member of Education Austin. (Austin; In Memory of Everett Taylor)



Tyler Wu of Dallas. Ranked in the top 3 percent of his class at Plano High School, Wu plans to attend UT-Austin. He participated in Student Congress, National Honor Society, Junior World Affairs Council, Chinese Club, Red Cross, Key Club and Whiz Quiz. Wu is the son of Mike and Fuyi Wu. Brother Wu is a member of American Postal Workers Union Local 732. (Dallas; In Memory of Chad Young)



**“LIKE” THE TEXAS AFL-CIO
FACEBOOK PAGE**

Oliver Garrett of Bridge City. One of the Continuing Scholarship winners, Garrett attends Lamar University. As a law firm employee, he volunteered to help organize a benefit for local law enforcement's hospitality center. Garrett is the son of Cody and Cheri Garrett. Brother Garrett is a member of United Steelworkers Local 13-423.



Joshua Gastro-Donathen of Houston. Carrying a 6.32 out of 7 average at Northbrook High School, Gastro-Donathen plans to attend Stephen F. Austin University. He participated in marching and symphonic bands (section leader), National Honor Society, Boy Scouts and Collegiate Challenge. Gastro-Donathen is the son of Karen Donathen. Sister Donathen is a member of the American Federation of Teachers Local 6532. (Harris; Phillip Lord)



Kayla DeAnne Houston of McKinney. Ranked in the top 10 percent of her class at McKinney Boyd High School, Houston plans to attend UT-Austin. She participated in basketball, National Honor Society and as a church volunteer. She scored a perfect 100 on the Texas AFL-CIO scholarship test. Houston is the daughter of Gerrald and Michelle Houston. Brother Houston is a member of International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 21. (Dallas; Joe D. Gunn, in Memory of Dorothy Gunn)



Ashley Jenay Jiles of Fort Worth. Ranked in the top 10 percent of her class at C.F. Brewer High School, Jiles plans to attend Texas State University. She participated in basketball, Student Council, National Honor Society, Key Club and Track. Jiles is the daughter of Asa and Gabriella Jiles. Brother Jiles is a member of National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 226. (Tarrant; Plumbers Local 68)

Celeste Juarez of San Antonio. Ranked 31st in her class at Travis Early College High School, Juarez plans to attend UT-San Antonio. She participated in Explorers and earned an Associates Degree as part of her high school program. Juarez is the daughter of Veronica Perez. Sister Perez is a member of San Antonio Alliance Local 67. (San Antonio; United Way of San Antonio, honoring Mike Edwards of LIUNA)



Ivy Keen of Bellaire. One of the Continuing Scholarship recipients, Keen attends Hope College in Holland, Michigan. She tutored Holland middle school students, interned at the Pine Rest Psychological Consultation Center and joined other students in volunteering at a food pantry in Chicago. Keen is the daughter of William R. Keen and Mary Fulgham. Brother Keen is a member of International Longshoremen's Association Local 1351 and Sister Fulgham is a member of American Federation of Musicians Local 65-699.



Justin Knowles of League City. Ranked in the top third of his class at Clear Springs High School, Knowles plans to attend University of Houston-Clear Lake. Knowles is the son of Larry and Wendy Knowles. Brother Knowles is a member of United Steelworkers Local 13-1. (Galveston; CWA 6215)



Iliana Naranjo of Donna. Ranked in the top 15 percent of her class at South Texas High School for Health Professions, Naranjo plans to attend Stephen F. Austin University. She participated in Health Occupations Students of America and the Science Olympiad. Naranjo is the daughter of Roberto and Sandra Naranjo. Sister Naranjo is a member of McAllen American Federation of Teachers. (Rio Grande Valley; Union Labor Life Insurance Co.)



Xenia Brianna Gonzalez of McAllen. One of the Continuing Scholarship recipients, Gonzalez attends UT-Austin. Gonzalez volunteered with the Global Medical Brigade in Nicaragua to provide medical and dental care in rural communities, helping establish a temporary clinic and pharmacy and educating children on dental hygiene. She has performed high-level research aimed at the growing problem of human resistance to antibiotics. Gonzalez is the daughter of Rafael and Veronica Gonzalez. Sister Gonzalez is a member of McAllen American Federation of Teachers. (Lassiter Law Firm)



Bianca Guerra of Jones Creek. Ranked in the top 10 percent of her class at Brazosport High School, Guerra plans to attend Brazosport College. She participated in band, PALS and National Honor Society. Guerra is the daughter of Lino and Mireya Guerra. Brother Guerra is a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 564. (Tideland)



Daniel Wayne Hargis of Teague. Ranked in the top quarter of his class at Teague High School, Hargis had not indicated his college plans at the time of publication of this newsletter. He participated in Boy Scouts, Future Farmers of America, tennis and church. Hargis is the son of Martin and Rhonda Hargis. Brother Hargis is a member of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 66. (Central)



Morgan Havelka of Robstown. Ranked in the top half of her class at Calallen High School, Havelka plans to attend Texas Tech University. She participated in 4-H, Future Farmers of America, Marketing Club and, as a trainer, in football and baseball. Havelka is the daughter of Matt and Adrienne Havelka. Sister Havelka is a member of American Federation of Teachers Local 3456. (Coastal Bend; In Memory of Linda Bridges)



2015 Texas AFL-CIO Scholarship Recipients

(Central Labor Council and sponsor/memorial other than Texas AFL-CIO are in parentheses.)

Marlie Berend of Wichita Falls. Ranked in the top half of her class at Rider High School, Berend plans to attend Vernon College. She worked two different jobs during high school to help support her family. Berend is the daughter of Al and Sherrie Berend. Brother Berend is a member of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 681. (Wichita Falls)



Scott Cardenas of Floresville. Ranked in the top half of his class at Floresville High School, Cardenas plans to attend Texas A&M-Kingsville. He participated in 4-H, podcasting and jiu jitsu and helped organize a thrift shop at church. Cardenas is the son of Raul and Cheryl Cardenas. Brother Cardenas is a member of San Antonio Fire Fighters Local 624. (San Antonio; In Memory of Hank Brown)



Beau Justin Davis of Kirbyville. Ranked in the top third of his class at Kirbyville High School, Davis plans to attend Lamar Institute of Technology. He participated in the Wildcat Fishing Team, Skills USA and UIL Academics. Davis is the son of Hubert and Alicia Davis. Brother Davis is a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2286. (Sabine Area; American Income Life)



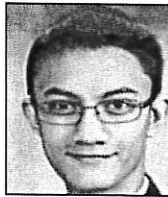
Gabriella Crystal Escobedo of Lufkin. Ranked in the top half of her class at Lufkin High School, Escobedo plans to attend Angelina College. She participated in soccer, high school rodeo, Future Farmers of America, yearbook and photography. Escobedo is the daughter of Jose and Rosalinda Escobedo. Brother Escobedo is a member of Glass, Molders Pottery Local 429. (Deep East Texas)



Ajeenah Fareed of Austin. Carrying a GPA of 3.52 at the Liberal Arts and Sciences Academy, Fareed plans to attend the University of North Texas. She participated in modeling and Advance Film. Fareed is the daughter of Florence Knight. Sister Knight is a member of Education Austin Local 2048. (Austin; Joe D. Gunn, in Memory of Dorothy Gunn)



Jonathan Foster of Lewisville. Ranked 2nd in his class at iSchool High Lewisville STEM, Foster plans to attend Southwestern Assemblies of God University. He participated in Royal Rangers, philosophy group, Koinonia Institute and chess. Foster is the son of James and Gemma Foster. Brother Foster is a member of National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 132. (Dallas; American Income Life)



AFT's 100th Anniversary Tell Us Your Story

On May 9, 1916, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) was founded in Chicago, when eight local unions were granted a charter signed by American Federation of Labor President Samuel Gompers.

Leading up to AFT's national convention in 2016, we will spend the next year looking back on our rich history—our struggles, our accomplishments, our proudest moments—and celebrating how far we have come and what lies ahead.

Texas AFT would like you to share your stories to commemorate the event. We'll publish your accounts next Spring at our Web site, with selected stories also in Texas Teacher.

CALLING ALL MCALLEN AFT MEMBERS:

We are asking you contribute stories to us at mcallenaft2@yahoo.com and lets see if we can get our McAllen story in the Texas Teacher.

ASK A FRIEND TO JOIN AFT

The Importance of "The Ask"

A major reason more of our co-workers do not join and get involved in the union is that *nobody asks them to!* In survey after survey of potential members, more than one half say that nobody personally asked them to join over the past year. (Among members, about half say that no one over the past year had personally asked them to get involved in union activity.)

So, it is important for us as worksite leaders to include "the ask" in our organizing conversations.

Never be afraid to ask the question: "Can I get you to join the union today?" Even if you have been told "no" before, today just might be the day!