

MCALLEN AFT NEWS

1500 Dove, McAllen, TX 78504

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2015 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Zari Carole Liljedahl

Zari Carole Liljedahl is the winner of our McAllen AFT High School Scholarship. She is the daughter of member Curt Liljedahl of Rowe High School. Curt has been a member of McAllen AFT since 2004.

She is a graduate of Sharyland High School and plans to attend Iowa Western Community college in Council Bluffs, Iowa, where she plans to Study Sign Language Interpreting. After completing community college she hopes to attend Iowa State University where she plans to study education. Her goal is to be a Deaf

Education Teacher and follow in the footsteps of both her parents who are educators.

Zari says she has dyslexia, but has never used it as an excuse to hold her back. She hopes to inspire her future deaf education students by showing them that a disability does not mean it has to define who you are or stifle your talents.

Zari's extracurricular activities includes being a member of the JROTC, 4-H, Book Club, Leo Club and L.O.S.T. Youth Group.

Several awards from JROTC include:

- JROTC Honor with Award
- JROTC Sophomore Commendation Award
- JROTC Veteran's Memorial Award

Zari has been on mission trips to Costa Rica working with groups, teaching leadership skills and also Honduras where she worked at an all girls orphanage.

We would like to congratulate her on all her accomplishments and wish her the



McAllen AFT
1500 Dove Avenue
McAllen, TX 78504

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Lisa Trevino

Lisa Trevino is the winner of our McAllen AFT member scholarship. Lisa has been a member of McAllen AFT since 2012. She is currently a teacher at De Leon Middle School and was a special education teacher at Field Elementary before that.

Lisa has always been passionate about making a difference in the lives of children. She enjoys working with children who have special needs and is convinced this is where she belongs.

Before starting her career as an educator, Lisa worked as a social worker with foster children. She started working in the foster care setting and found herself attending many counseling sessions and meetings in public schools as many children were receiving special education services. She

then decided to make the change from working in foster care to the school setting.

She earned her masters in special education in 2008.

Lisa believes that educating herself further would increase the positive impact in her students' lives and that is why she intends to take another step in her education journey in becoming an Educational Diagnostician.

She plans on attending UTRGV to obtain her certification as a diagnostician and eventually obtain a PhD in an area of Special Education.

We would like to congratulate Lisa on all her accomplishment and also wish her best of luck on her future challenges.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

McAllen AFT has several scholarship opportunities for members and children of members. Please check your mailings and emails for reminders of these scholarships. These are also available on our website at:

<http://mcallen.tx.aft.org/>