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www.goldenbeltcf.org

For more information:
Teresa Powelson 620.792.3000
teresa@goldenbeltcf.org



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

GREAT BEND, Kan. – The Golden Belt Community Foundation awards over \$125,000 in scholarships to area students. These wide-ranging scholarships, offered to high school graduates from Barton, Pawnee, Rush and Stafford County, Kansas, meet a variety of educational needs. Some scholarship funds are designed for students who do not receive substantial financial aid through traditional sources like college, high school or merit-based scholarships and are not awarded until after those determinations are made. Additionally, the Foundation has scholarship funds available to students attending vocational or other non-traditional schools. With its many scholarship offerings, the Foundation is proud to support the students in the communities it serves.

GBCF administers more than \$3.8 million dollars in endowed scholarship funds for graduating high school seniors and current college students.

The 2025 scholarships and recipients are:

Clarence and Vera Alpers Stafford County 4-H Scholarship

This scholarship was established in memory of Clarence and Vera Alpers. Longtime 4-H advocates and a part of four generations of Alpers families of Stafford County. This scholarship was created to honor the memory of Clarence and Vera and their dedication to passing along their love of 4-H and education. This scholarship's goal is to raise 4-H awareness, teaching life skills and encouraging other families to get involved for future generations to come.

Garrett McAlister – University of Kansas

Steve and Mildred Reif Memorial Scholarship Fund

Lifetime Barton County, Kansas residents, Steve and Mildred Reif were married August 30th, 1950. They farmed near Odin where they raised their children along with cattle, wheat, and milo. Their sons, Melvin, and Raymond, graduated from Odin High School while their daughters, Janet and Theresa, graduated from Hoisington High School. Always supportive of educational endeavors, Steve and Mildred encouraged their children and grandchildren to attend college. They all did and were appreciative of scholarships received. This fund continues Steve and Mildred's support of education for Hoisington High graduates.

Bailey George – Barton Community College

Amy C. Harter Memorial Scholarship Fund

Amy C. Harter's constant smile had a way of brightening up everybody's day. Her strength, courage, spirit, and love of Christ were the foundation of her in all she did for family and community.

Angel Bowersox – Hutchinson Community College

Carla M. Yahne Memorial Scholarship Fund

Carla was lifetime resident of Great Bend. Caring about her community, she was active in numerous organizations including Barton County Desk and Derrick Club, Kansas Oil and Gas Museum, Community Food Bank of Barton County, the Girls' Home and American Legion Auxiliary. This scholarship honors Carla's memory and dedication to our community.

Darcy Feist – Kansas State University

Chester Crane Memorial Scholarship Fund

Mr. Crane was a lifetime resident of Pawnee County; he was a retired clerk/maintenance person for Doerr Manufacturing of Larned for 60 years. He was of the Christian faith, Charter member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and Life Member of Disabled American Veterans. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and was awarded the Purple Heart.

Karley Lemuz – Kansas State University

Effie I. Bank and Roy Banks Memorial Scholarship Fund

Effie Bank, the daughter of Thomas and Mattie Banks, was born in 1909. She married Lowell Bank (no 's') in 1933, and they owned Pawnee Printing in Larned, KS. One of Effie's brothers was Roy Banks. This scholarship was established to honor Effie Bank and her brother Roy Banks, of Larned.

Angel Bowersox – Hutchinson Community College

Chloe Pelton – Fort Hays State University

Ethel D. Holmes Scholarship Fund

Ethel Dell (Peppiatt) Holmes was born in August of 1892, on a farm near Ellsworth, KS. She was an early day schoolteacher in a one-room schoolhouse. Aunt Ethel was a woman of profound faith. She passed away in 1995, at age 102.

Kate Welcher – Barton Community College

Slade Mohr – Kansas State University

First American Baptist Church of Larned Scholarship Fund

The First American Baptist Church of Larned established this scholarship fund to support students that are active in their faith.

Creighton Murray – Fort Hays State University

Frank W. Brinkman Memorial Scholarship Fund

Frank W. Brinkman was a Barton County resident deeply rooted in the banking industry. In 1874, his father established the J.V. Brinkman & Co. bank in Great Bend. The Brinkman family was known for their charitable acts. Frank passed away in the spring of 1962. In 1964, a scholarship fund was established to forever honor his legacy.

Ryan Rossouw – Barton Community College

Jeffrey Alan Bland Memorial Scholarship Fund

Jeff Bland was a lifelong resident of Larned, Kansas, and graduated from Larned High School in 1978. He was a junior at the University of Kansas at the time of his death. He was an accomplished pianist, flutist, and athlete. He was an officer of his fraternity and a member of KU Concert Band and KU Flute Choir. Jeff's love and life touched many people.

James Seeman – Fort Hays State University

Madeline Hamrick – Fort Hays State University

Creighton Murray – Fort Hays State University

Isabella Bailey – Fort Hays State University

Clara Shaver – Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University – Prescott Arizona

Chloe Pelton – Fort Hays State University

Karley Lemuz – Kansas State University

Kansas State University Scholarship Fund

Our KSU Scholarship Endowment Fund was established by alumni, both businesses and individuals, in Barton, Pawnee, Rush, and Stafford counties who wanted to assist local students in obtaining a college education from KSU.

Josephine Mazouch – Kansas State University

Karey Lemuz – Kansas State University

Samuel Lowther – Kansas State University

Mingenback Family Scholarship Fund

The Mingenback family created this scholarship to honor the legacy of Dr. John Mingenback. "Dr. John" as he was known, embodied the characteristics of a servant leader. He was dedicated to the patient's understanding of dental health and preventative care. He felt the ultimate compliment, through his 47 years of practice, was coming to know three-to-four generations within a family who chose him to be their dentist. Dr. Mingenback loved his patients, took an interest in their lives, eased their pain, and followed the Golden Rule throughout his career in the Golden Belt.

Melissa Donecker – Fort Hays State University

Paul J. Urban Memorial Scholarship Fund

Paul Urban graduated from Fort Hays State University and received his master's degree from the University of Northern Colorado. He was also a graduate of the Command and General Staff College of Fort Leavenworth. He served during World War II and was in the active Army and Reserve for 33 years and retired as a colonel. He taught for St. Joseph's Military Academy and Great Bend High School for over 20 years. Paul went into real estate in 1973, becoming realtor of the year, and teaching real estate classes at Barton Community College. He was a member of St. Rose Catholic Church and served on various church councils.

Ryan Rossouw – Barton Community College

Slade Mohr – Kansas State University

Diego Pasos – Kansas State University

Ralph and Elinor Haneke Memorial Scholarship

Ralph and Elinor Haneke were passionate about education. Ralph, an Ellis High School graduate, who enlisted in the Army during World War II instead of seeking higher education, was a successful, self-taught businessman and certified financial counselor. He was dedicated to helping youth through his work in church, Boy Scouts, Lions Club, and Habitat for Humanity. Elinor, a Great Bend High School and Fort Hays State University graduate; whose greatest love other than family were her students, became a 42-year veteran teacher for Great Bend public schools, working at Morrison Elementary, Roosevelt Junior High, and finally ending her teaching career at Great Bend High School teaching English.

Nevaeh Bowman – Wichita State University

S. Larry Edwardson Memorial Scholarship

S. Larry Edwardson was born in Crisfield, MD and had an extensive career as a Certified Financial Planner in Great Bend. He had a profound appreciation for family and community.

Adelyn Irwin – Kansas State University

Samantha C. Harter Memorial Scholarship

Samantha (Sami) C. Harter was a vivacious, happy, fun-loving girl with a huge heart and kind spirit. Her biggest thrill was riding horses. She began riding at a young age and enjoyed training for English Saddle competitions. Sami played guitar, piano, and loved to sing.

Chloe Pelton – Fort Hays State University

Vida M., Dorothy C., & Vivian M., Archer Scholarship Fund

The Archer sisters were lifelong residents of Ellinwood. They were born in the early 1900's and were the daughters of Charles Quincy & Margaret Ewers Archer. They had great heart, faith, and a real sense of community. The Archer sisters deeply cared about a student's ability to attain higher education.

Raengel Ramirez – Barton Community College
Joshua Chapman – Old Town Barber College
Brandon Henkle – Fort Hays Tech North Central
Idali Loya – Barton Community College
Zoey Schwindt – Fort Hays State University
Willow Murphy – Wichita State University
Kynslee White – Fort Hays State University
Ian Haselhorst – Fort Hays State University
Evelyn Lopez – Barton Community College
Diego Esparza – Hutchinson Community College
David Dominguez – Barton Community College
Connor Wiley – University of Kansas
Ava Smith – Barton Community College
Arlis Scharz – Wichita State University
Slade Mohr – Kansas State University
Nevaeh Bowman – Wichita State University
Melissa Donecker – Fort Hays State University
Karley Lemuz – Kansas State University
Diego Pasos – Kansas State University
Chloe Pelton – Fort Hays State University
Bailey George – Barton Community College

Victor Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Victor Memorial Scholarship was established by Roberta Lee "Bobbie" Victor Wallace to honor sisters Mary Lois Victor and Vilotte Victor. Their parents, Mary Vilotte Garrett Victor (1845-1887) and Robert McClure Victor (1833-1915) had 10 children: Martha, Mary Lois, Valerie, Victoria, Pearl, Lillian, John, Roberta Lee "Bobbie", Jennie, and Vilotte. Their mother, Mary Violotte, passed away a year after Vilotte was born.

Erin Tims – Wichita State University

Virginia Lupfer Memorial Scholarship

The Virginia Lupfer Memorial Scholarship was started in memory of Virginia Lupfer by the Redding Family. The primary purpose of the scholarship is to support a senior of Larned High School moving onto a vocational or trade school or a 2-year or 4-year college or university that is attending any Kansas Educational institute of higher education. The recipient must have at least a 3.0 GPA or 'at or above' a "B" average overall grade. The award is geared towards those with financial need and not receiving significant other financial aid.

Karley Lemuz – Kansas State University

Bob and Rosalee Roth Family Scholarship

The Bob and Rosalee Roth Family Scholarship was established to support students from Pawnee, Barton, Stafford and Rush Counties. Student must be a graduating senior and plan on attending the University of Kansas with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

McKaylee Day – University of Kansas

Abigail Holt – University of Kansas

Murphy Russel Woodmansee Memorial Scholarship

A lifetime Great Bend resident, Murphy was a sophomore at Hoisington High School, where he was active in golf and band. He was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Great Bend and Boy Scout Troop #157. Murphy enjoyed working at his first job, Wetlands Waterpark, during the summer and playing video games, which allowed him to build and maintain valuable friendships. Above all, he enjoyed spending time with family, camping, canoeing, and kayaking. The Murphy Russel Woodmansee Memorial Scholarship supports Current High Seniors/Graduates of High Schools in Barton County. Preference Field of Study is E-sports, Leadership, Accounting/Business, Computers and/or Music.

Jillian Reimer – Fort Hays State University

Bryce Steffan – Fort Hays State University

Kevin Popp Memorial Scholarship

The Kevin Popp Memorial Scholarship was established to support a graduating senior or graduate of Pawnee, Barton, Stafford or Rush County. Student must plan on attending an accredited college or university in Kansas and majoring in Education, Nursing and/or Ministry. Evidence of Christian values and demonstration of ministry work is preferred.

Ava Thill – Barton Community College

John and Carole Harris Family Education Scholarship

John and Carole Harris were long-time educators, raising a family of educators. The John and Carole Harris Family Education Scholarship supports High School Seniors from Great Bend majoring in Education/Administration with a preference for coaching and Pre-School/Elementary Schools.

Kylie McCormick – Barton Community College

Don Schoonover Family Scholarship

Don Schoonover was the owner of Ag Systems Irrigation in Larned for 40 years. He was raised on a family farm in Western Kansas and attended Kansas State University where he graduated with a degree in Business Administration. Agriculture was a big part of his life, and he loved working with his clients. His family takes great pride in encouraging students to follow his path by pursuing a career in an Agricultural related field, Accounting, or a Business-related field.

James Seeman – Fort Hays State University

Devin Randolph Memorial Scholarship

The Devin Randolph Memorial Scholarship was established to support a High School senior from Barton County attending any college and/or university. A short narrative describing how the student has coped with a mental health challenge that could include depression, anxiety, ADHD or any other mental health challenge is required with this scholarship.

Jillian Reimer – Fort Hays State University

Cap Proffitt Memorial Scholarship

Crockett A. "Cap" Proffitt graduated from Sterling High School. Formerly of the Alden/Sterling area, he became an Ellinwood resident in 1989 and was the manager of Barton County Feeders, Inc. He attended the First Baptist Church and was a member of American Legion; Rotary Club, Kansas Livestock Association, National Cattleman's Beef Association, GTO Association of America, Greater Wichita GTO Club, and was a board member and partner of Ellinwood Country Living. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and received the Purple Heart.

Caden Rowan – Kansas State University

Bill and Kay Dooley Memorial Scholarship

The Bill and Kay Dooley Memorial Scholarship provides a scholarship to a graduate of Larned, KS. The graduate must be working on a degree from a vocational and/or trade-school, 2 year or 4-year college or university. Field of Study preference is Education, and the secondary would be the Health/Medical Field. The graduate must have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA or an ACT or SAT testing score equivalent to a 3.0 GPA.

Isabella Bailey – Fort Hays State University

Clara Shaver – Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University – Prescott Arizona

Larned Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship Fund

The Larned Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship Fund was established by area donors that have a passion and belief in the mission of Pawnee County 4-H. They also feel fortunate we have quality education, like Fort Hays State University or Barton Community College, providing students with the educational tools necessary to be forward-thinking.

Creighton Murray – Fort Hays State University

Establishing a Scholarship Fund with Golden Belt Community Foundation

Donor commitment to providing educational funding for our area students helps to build a stronger community. Endowed scholarships may be established with a minimum donation of \$10,000. A simple fund agreement is signed by the donor and foundation that outlines the specific fund criteria. To set up a scholarship fund or for more information contact Teresa Powelson at (620) 792-3000 or visit their website at www.goldenbeltcf.org/scholarships

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