

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND ALLIED PROFESSIONS
2020 HONORS AND AWARDS CEREMONY
VIRTUALLY PRESENTED

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
PEAK PERFORMER

DR. MARY HEMPHILL-JOSEPH

CEREMONY PROGRAM

- Opening Remarks- Dr. Kim Winter, Dean
- Peak Performers
- Awards and Scholarships by Departments
- Closing Remarks by Dr. Patricia Bricker, Associate Dean

PEAK PERFORMERS

Graduates of the College of Education and Allied Professions may be selected for induction into the Honor Roll of Peak Performers because of their professional achievements and because the professors associated with their disciplines believe that they are an inspirational role model to our students who are currently pursuing a degree in the College.

Human ServicesDr. Mary Hemphill- Joseph
Office of the Dean.....Pat Kaemmerling
Psychology.....Dr.Andrea Meltzer
School of Teaching and LearningDr. Collin Webster

Education

- B.A., Spanish, Meredith College, 2005
- Master of School Administration, Western Carolina University, 2010
- Ph.D., Doctorate in Leadership Studies, NC Agricultural & Technical State University, 2014

Professional Accomplishments

- Model Schools Recognition, 2018
- NC Academic Growth and Achievement Award, 2016-2017
- NC Regional Principal of the Year, Sandhills Region 4, 2016-2017
- Principal of the Year, Scotland County Schools, 2016-2017
- Scholastic Achievement in Service Award, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, 2015
- Dissertation of the Year Award, NC A&T State University

Dr. Mary Hemphill is a native of Hickory, NC, and after graduating from Hickory High School, she went on to attend Meredith College as a North Carolina Teaching Fellow, graduating with a Bachelors in Spanish and Elementary Education. Following several years of classroom teaching, she began the Masters of School Administration program at Western Carolina University and successfully earned her MSA in 2010. After serving as an assistant principal and principal in various schools, in 2011, Mary began the PhD program through the School of Education at NC A&T State University, graduating in 2014. Mary has over 15 years of professional experience as a teacher, administrator, state director, and university professor. Most recently, Mary was appointed as North Carolina’s first state Director of Computer Science & Technology Education, where she works to leverage support and leadership around computer science initiatives across the state. Mary was named the 2017 Regional Principal of the Year for the Sandhills Region of North Carolina, and is the co-founder of Rebrand NC Education which is aimed exclusively at helping North Carolina school leaders shatter the status quo and shift the conversation around public education. Mary is the CEO of The Limitless Lady, LLC and Founder of The Limitless Leader, a company that helps individuals ignite the leader in themselves so they can better serve their community, company, and personal career. She is a leadership expert, Coach, K-12 educator and administrator, and inspirational speaker. Mary believes that in order to show up in the world as your most authentic and powerful self, we must break through limiting beliefs that keep us from maximizing our full potential.

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

PEAK PERFORMER

PAT KAEMMERLING

Degrees

- B.S.Ed., Middle Grades Education, Western Carolina University, 1971

Professional Accomplishments

- Western Carolina University Distinguished Service Award, 2019
- University's Foundation Board from 2008-2011 and on the Board of Trustees from 2011-2019
- Founding member of the Peachtree Corners Business Association
- Board member of the National Federation of Independent Business in Georgia

Pat Kaemmerling earned her bachelor's degree in middle grades education at WCU in 1971, arriving as a first-generation college student from her family's farm in Caser. Upon graduation, she taught ninth-grade math and science in Fayetteville for three years before moving to Atlanta to pursue a business career. Pat quickly worked her way in to sales and management with various national companies, including Yegen Associates in Atlanta as its regional vice president for sales and marketing, and with the American Red Cross, where she served as the director of donor resources development, also in Atlanta. Today, she and her husband David own and operate Access Computers, a network integrator with a nationwide client base, and Ultimate Security Solutions, where she serves as chief financial officer. In support of her beloved Catamounts, Pat served on the WCU Foundation Board from 2008-2011 and on the WCU Board of Trustees from 2011-2019, serving as its chair for the last two years. She also served as co-chair of the WCU Chancellor Search Committee, which brought Chancellor Kelli R. Brown to Cullowhee, and on the university's 125th anniversary celebration steering committee. With no children of their own, she and her husband are paying it forward with the endowed Ernest S. Blanton Memorial Scholarship they established in honor of her father. The Kaemmerlings have pledged support for the College of Education and Allied Professions and the College of Engineering and Technology through their estate plans. They also are members of WCU's Legacy Society and the Madison Society.

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

PEAK PERFORMER

DR. ANDREA MELTZER

Degrees

- B.A. Psychology, Appalachian State University, 2004
- M.A. Experimental Psychology, Western Carolina University, 2006
- Ph.D., Social Psychology, University of Tennessee, 2012

Professional Accomplishments

- Stephen Risley Family Fellow, College of Arts and Sciences, Florida State University, 2018
- Association for Psychological Science's Rising Star Award, 2017

During her time at Western Carolina, Andrea Meltzer earned her master's degree while studying women's body image and sex discrimination with Dr. Millie Abel. Notably, she was the first graduate of the renewed experimental psychology program. In 2006, she began her doctoral work in social psychology at the University of Tennessee, where she developed a research program that integrates relationship science with evolutionary psychology to examine the implications of evolved processes for established long-term relationships such as marriage. After graduating with her doctorate in 2012, Andrea began her first faculty position at Southern Methodist University. In 2015, she transitioned to Florida State University, where she is currently an Assistant Professor of Social Psychology. Andrea teaches a variety of graduate and undergraduate courses including evolutionary social psychology, social psychology, close relationships, research methods, and the psychology of Women. Moreover, she has published in top interdisciplinary and psychology outlets including *Science*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *Psychological Science*, and *the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*. Her research has also received a great deal of attention in the national media; indeed, she has been interviewed or featured by the Wall Street Journal, ABC News, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, and ESPN among many other outlets. In addition to being named the 2018-19 Stephen Risley Family Fellow in Florida State University's College of Arts and Sciences, the Association for Psychological Science recently named Andrea a "Rising Star"—a prestigious indicator of early success in research psychology. Earlier this year, Florida State University awarded Andrea with tenure and promotion and thus she will transition to Associate Professor in the coming fall.

SCHOOL OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

PEAK PERFORMER

DR. COLLIN WEBSTER

Degrees

- B.S. Communications, Western Carolina University, 1998
- M.A.Ed. Physical Education, Western Carolina University, 2001
- Ph.D. Physical Education and Sports Studies, University of Georgia, 2006

Dr. Collin Webster is a nationally and internationally recognized scholar in the area of youth physical activity promotion, particularly comprehensive school physical activity programs. With over 100 publications and numerous national and international presentations, much of his work focuses on integrating movement opportunities for students during regular classroom time in elementary schools. Collin's research addresses teaching practices in K-12 schools, as well as pre-professional programming in higher education, related to school-based physical activity promotion. A two-time graduate of Western Carolina University, Collin was a physical education teacher in the Dominican Republic and Dubai before graduating with his Ph.D. from University of Georgia. He has been faculty at the University of South Carolina since 2006, and currently is a professor and serves as the Associate Dean for Research and Innovation. Collin has also held appointments as a senior lecturer at the University of Wollongong in Australia and as Chair of the nationally #1 ranked Department of Physical Education at the University of South Carolina. He has continued in his passion with researching youth development and their physical activity resources in and out of school, and has made a profound influence on all the students he has taught over the years. His research directly influences higher education and re-creating developing best practices in the health and physical education field. Collin has also devoted his attention to international education, particularly in Southeastern Asian schools, where he spent most of his childhood as a Third Culture Kid.

SCHOLARSHIPS OF DISTINCTION

These scholarships are recognized for their high impact on student needs. Each scholarship awards \$10,000 in total, or offers a full tuition scholarship.

DELIA AND MARSHAL COURTNEY ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

Endowed through the generosity of Kathy Courtney and Pat Fearheiley, this annual scholarship provides support to students in The College of Education & Allied Professions and The College of Health and Human Sciences.

*Recipient: Jenna Georgevich
Hannah Gonzalez
Grace Vercauteren
Brianna Ward
Justin White
Gina Yang*

*Health and Physical Education
Elementary Education
Inclusive Education
Psychology
Parks and Recreation Management
Elementary Education*

DWIGHT E. & JESSIE D. RYLAND SCHOLARSHIP

Established by Dwight E. and Jessie D. Ryland, this scholarship supports deserving students pursuing degrees in either math or science education. Mrs. Jessie Duncan Ryland ('59, '61), spent most of her working career as a high school counselor. Her husband, Dwight, earned his bachelor's degree in secondary education and taught social studies.

Recipient: Breona Tuft

Mathematics Education

HAROLD E. & HENRIETTA (SALTZ) ANDERSON SCHOLARSHIP

In their wills, Harold and Henrietta Saltz Anderson established the Anderson Scholars program. This program aims to honor the heritage of the Anderson and Saltz families in western North Carolina, Henrietta's work as a teacher and their nieces and nephews, many of whom graduated from Western Carolina University and are in the education profession. This scholarship will support students enrolled in a teacher education program.

*Recipient: Hannah Wallace
Katelyn Caldwell
Alana Cook
Taylor Cook
Ciara Primo
Emily Roach
Lesleigh Tabor*

*Elementary Education
Elementary Education
Inclusive Education
Social Sciences Education
Inclusive Education
English Education
Elementary Education*

STRONG SCHOLARS PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP

Western Carolina University has been selected to participate in the Strong Scholars Program. The Hattie M. Strong Foundation hopes to reduce financial pressure for students during their student-teaching semester. Recipients must be in good standing with the university, have a declared major in a teaching licensure program, and are likely to become excellent classroom teachers.

*Recipient: Natalie Allred
Mary Deitz
Samantha Flanagan
Daniel Reed*

*Elementary Education
Inclusive Education
Elementary Education
Science Education*

CAPPS FAMILY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. Barbara Capps established this scholarship in memory of her parents, Robert and Helen Capps, who valued education and instilled a love of learning and reading in their daughter. Dr. Capps retired from WCU in 1994 after 25 years of service.

Recipient: Bailey Brooke Tavel

Middle Grades Social Studies

TAFT B. & MALVERY BOTNER SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was endowed through the generosity of Taft and Malvery Botner in recognition of their lifelong careers in education. Dr. Botner was involved in education for 48 years, including public schools and at Western Carolina University, where he served in several roles, including Dean of the College of Education. Mrs. Botner was a public-school teacher for 30 years, including 12 years at Camp Laboratory School.

Recipient: Brittney Audibert

Elementary Education

Jade Bober

Elementary Education

Allison Hedman

Elementary Education

Molly Keith

Elementary Education

Emily Grace Nykito

Elementary Education

Rebekah Waldrop

Elementary Education

TEACHER INCENTIVE SCHOLARSHIP

Established through multiple gifts, this scholarship provides support for students who are majoring in one of WCU's teacher education programs.

Recipient: Bailey Dickerson

Inclusive Education

Kaitlyn Dodson

Elementary Education

Haley Euler

Science Education

Brooke Hargett

Elementary Education

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS BY DEPARTMENT

HUMAN SERVICES

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT AFFAIRS AWARD

This award is presented to a HESA student who is graduating during the academic year and who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to the program, service to WCU, and the field of higher education student affairs in general. This award recognizes the nominee's sustained excellent academic record and academic success as exemplified by extraordinary publications, research, creative work, merit awards, or competitive selection for presentations at state, regional, and national conferences.

Recipient: Jessica Koett

Higher Education Student Affairs

PROMISING PRACTITIONER AWARD IN HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT AFFAIRS

The CEAP Award for Promising Practitioner in Higher Education Student Affairs will be given to a HESA student who is graduating during the academic year and who has demonstrated extraordinary effort as an emerging practitioner in the field. This award will recognize the nominee's passionate commitment to student success and wellness exemplified through their desire to impact lives and foster holistic student development. The recipient will be selected in consultation and agreement of the HESA faculty from the aforementioned criteria.

Recipient: Thomas Cook

Higher Education Student Affairs

MARY S. JONES AND CHARLES F. WAYTE GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Mary joined WCU in 1955 as a supervising teacher at Camp Laboratory School before joining WCU's education faculty in 1963. Mary retired from WCU in 1972 but soon began a new career in international education as a teacher and counselor in more than 20 American-sponsored overseas schools in Central and South America. Mary was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the Association for the Advancement of International Education in March 1996. Mary died in June 1996, but endowed this scholarship to support outstanding graduate students in education.

Recipient: Tashika Yatemán-Gardener

Supervision MAED

MICHAEL PAYSOUR PARKS AND RECREATION SCHOLARSHIP

Endowed through the generosity of Michael Paysour, this scholarship provides support to students who are majoring in parks and recreation management. Michael, a WCU alumnus who has a passion for national parks, worked at a national battlefield following his years at WCU, and later entered the classroom as a history teacher. This scholarship provides support for students who aspire to engage with state or national parks.

Recipient: Julia Gros

Parks & Recreation Mgt

RALPH J. ANDREWS AWARD OUTSTANDING PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT MAJOR

The Ralph J. Andrews Award is given annually to an outstanding Parks and Recreational Management major based on academic performance and involvement in activities related to the major both on and off campus.

Recipient: Julia Riddle

Parks and Recreation Mgt

Annalise Orefice

Park and Recreation Mgt

PHIPPS, THOLKES, SINGLETON SCHOLARSHIP

Endowed through the efforts of Parks and Recreation Management faculty Maurice Phipps, Ben Tholkes, and Debby Singleton, this scholarship provides support for students who are majoring in parks and recreation management.

Recipient: Madison Bryan

Parks & Recreation Mgt

MARY DECK BREAK BY THE LAKE SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship honors Dr. Mary Deck's instrumental role in rejuvenating a regional conference for student services personnel dedicated to providing education, renewal, and opportunities for collegiality in North Carolina. This scholarship is made possible through Break by the Lake conference registration fees and private donations and is awarded to a graduate student in the counseling program who has demonstrated commitment to professional development, service, and an involvement in community and civic activities.

Recipient: Ashley Grubb

School Counseling

CAROLE HEARN CURTIS SCHOLARSHIP

The Carole Hearn Curtis Scholarship was established in memory of the late Ms. Carole Hearn Curtis. Carole's son, Dr. Russ Curtis, is an associate professor in the clinical counseling program at WCU, where he has served since 2000. The Carole Hearn Curtis Scholarship provides financial support to graduate students enrolled in the WCU counseling program.

Recipient: John Karolewics

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

DON CHALKER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

The Don Chalker Award for Excellence in Educational Leadership is given to an outstanding student in the Master's of School Administration Program who excels in scholarship and demonstrates promise in the field of school administration.

Recipient: Jennifer Brinson

Educational Leadership

Courtney Smith

Educational Leadership

DANIEL L. SADDLER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The family of Daniel L. Saddler offers this scholarship in honor of his life and the extraordinary contributions he made to students in WCU's Counseling Program from 1972 until his death in 1989. Dan taught his students to trust themselves, accept others, listen and keep an open mind. This scholarship represents a celebration of his life and the positive influence he brought to his students, colleagues and the counseling profession.

Recipient: Chelsea Cummings *Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

GUY & JO EDITH BURCHFIEL SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established in memory of Dr. Guy Burchfiel ('49, '53), a life-long educator and supporter of WCU, by his wife Mrs. Jo Edith Burchfiel ('51, '53). Dr. Burchfield was a life-long educator and supporter of Western Carolina University.

Recipient: Jaime Hooper *Educational Leadership*

OUTSTANDING COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Outstanding Courageous Leadership Award is given to candidates in the Master's in School Administration or the Post-Master's Certificate in Public School Leadership programs. Candidates are nominated and selected by faculty in these two programs based on the following criteria: leads by example, is a highly reflective learner, is action oriented (applies learning), and supports learning of others.

Recipient: Paul Garrity *Master in School Administration*

HOYT AND LORA PONDER SCHOLARSHIP

Endowed through the generosity of Hoyt and Lora Ponder, this scholarship encourages well-qualified students to enter the field of early childhood education. Hoyt, who worked with and for people of all ages with developmental disabilities, served as director of the Developmental Evaluation Center at WCU for 25 years prior to his retirement. Lora worked for more than 30 years with and for young children, including those with disabilities in preschools and public-school kindergartens. She worked in Jackson County schools for 24 years before her retirement.

Recipient: Emily Stevens *Birth - Kindergarten*

DIXIE L. & MILES S. MCGINTY SCHOLARSHIP

Richard and Ouida Dowis endowed this scholarship in memory of Dixie L. & Miles S. McGinty to provide support in alternating years for doctoral students in educational leadership and undergraduate foreign language students who are participating in study abroad. Dixie L. McGinty, PhD., was an Associate Professor of Research in Educational Leadership and Foundations. Miles S. McGinty, Ed.D., was an instructor in German in the Modern Foreign Languages Department. In their over ten years at WCU, they had a positive and lasting influence on students, colleagues and the community.

Recipient: Cindy Messer *Educational Leadership*

DR. KIRK SMITH SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established in memory of Dr. Kirk Smith for his contribution and love of teaching and WCU. Dr. Kirk Smith was a graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology graduating with an Industrial Engineering degree in 1974. He worked in many different roles before ending his career at WCU as a faculty member of human resources development. Kirk was excited about his work, diligently seeking to do his absolute best in enriching the lives of others be it through training or teaching. He will be remembered for his kindness, and gentle, positive outlook on life.

Recipient: Amanda Allen *Human Resources*

R. M. AINSLEY SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established to continually recognize the contributions of Dr. R.M. Ainsley to Western Carolina University and to provide assistance to a graduate student enrolled in Educational Administration.

Recipient: Jaime Hooper *Educational Leadership*

School of Teaching and Learning

GENEVIEVE & E.J. WHITMIRE SCHOLARSHIP

The family of Genevieve and E.J. Whitmire established this scholarship to carry forward the philosophy and contributions of Genevieve and E. J. Whitmire and to foster and advance other life-long learners who plan to touch the lives of young people through teaching. The scholarship supports deserving students attending WCU who are either math education or science education majors.

Recipient: Antonia Kincaid *Science Education*

JOHN & ANNA MCFADDEN SCHOLARSHIP

Drs. John McFadden, WCU professor Emeritus of Education, and Anna McFadden, former WCU director of academic engagement and IT governance, established this scholarship to provide support for a rising junior or senior who is pursuing a major in secondary education with the intention to teach science at the high-school level. The McFaddens worked in prekindergarten through higher education. Their strong dedication and commitment in preparing quality educators is evident throughout their service and establishment of this scholarship.

Recipient: Georgia Matheson *Science Education*

LENA MAYBERRY ENGSTROM SCHOLARSHIP

Established through the generosity of Dr. Joan Davis Humphries (M.A.'70, Ed.D. '81) and Mr. Carroll D. Humphries (M.Ed.'69), this scholarship honors Dr. Lena Mayberry Engstrom, a devoted North Carolina public school teacher who graduated from Western Carolina Teachers College (B.A '52, M.A. '55). Dr. Engstrom taught 45 years in various North Carolina public schools, colleges and universities before retiring in 1997 as a professor of English at Chattanooga State Community Technical College.

Recipient: Rachel Hooper *English Education*

OUTSTANDING STUDENT TEACHER IN ENGLISH EDUCATION AWARD

The award for the Outstanding Student Teacher in English Education honors the person who has demonstrated exemplary teaching ability in English. This person brings creativity and innovation to the classroom, as well as evidence of superior teaching and excellence in the broad field of English education.

Recipient: Sophia Peterson *English Education*
Abigail Fox *English Education*

BETH TYSON LOFQUIST SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. Elizabeth "Beth" Tyson Lofquist created this fund to reflect gratitude for scholarship support she received as a student and to support her passion for middle grades education. Dr. Lofquist graduated with her undergraduate ('78), Masters ('79), and Education Specialist ('88) degrees in education from WCU, and served as a tenured faculty member, Department Chair, Associate Provost, and Interim Provost before retiring from WCU in 2012.

Recipient: Melissa Unger *Middle Grades Mathematics*

OUTSTANDING STUDENT TEACHER IN MATHEMATICS EDUCATION AWARD

Outstanding Student Teacher or Intern Award recipients receive a letter of recognition and their name placed on a plaque which is on permanent display in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science.

Recipient: Amanda Fonseca

Mathematics Education

OUTSTANDING SCHOLAR IN MATHEMATICS EDUCATION AWARD

The College of Arts and Science Dean's Outstanding Scholar award program recognizes the top student in each program represented in their College. The two criteria are; advanced standing in the program and clear demonstration of scholarly achievement.

Recipient: Michelle Hewson

Elementary

WILLIAM A. & PATRICIA L. LEDFORD SCHOLARSHIP

Endowed by William A. Ledford Jr. and Christine B. Ledford, this scholarship is awarded to an outstanding student majoring in education. This scholarship honors William A. and Patricia L. Ledford, parents of William A. Ledford Jr., who both were teachers and school principals in the North Carolina public school system for 40 years.

Recipient: Jennifer Holcomb

Music Education

BETA LAMBDA SORORITY TEACHING SCHOLARSHIP

In 2014 members of the Beta Lambda Sorority established this scholarship to provide support for education majors. Preference is given to undergraduate students from Jackson County and to the student of a parent who is/was a teacher.

Recipient: Ali Coscore

Inclusive Education

JESSIE LINDSAY SCHOLARSHIP

This fund was established by Jessie Lindsay Hales in memory of her husband, John Donovan Hales. Awards are made to students who have a declared major in education. Preference is given to residents of Swain County.

Recipient: Taylor Cochran

English Education

OUTSTANDING SENIOR IN MIDDLE GRADES EDUCATION AWARD

The faculty in the Department of Elementary and Middle Grades Education selects one recipient for the Outstanding Senior Award each year. The award is based on scholarship, collegiality, and commitment to the profession and quality of work in public schools at the middle grades level.

Recipient: Hannah Swords

Middle Grades Social Studies

LINDA REEP LANKFORD SCHOLARSHIP

Established by Jesse Lankford, Jr., this scholarship was endowed to honor the memory of his wife Linda Reep Lankford, a teacher and alumna of Western Carolina University. This fund provides support for students who are majoring in elementary or middle grades education who show potential as a professional teacher.

Recipient: Breanna Gray Barlow

Elementary Education

TEACH FOR TOMORROW SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established by David and Brenda Warlick, who are both WCU graduates. This scholarship is awarded to a student pursuing a degree in middle grades education and celebrates the lifelong commitment of the Warlick family to the advancement of learning. David Warlick was recognized as a 2011 Peak Performer of the College of Education and Allied Professions.

Recipient: Grace Houston

Middle Grades Language Arts

CAROLYN MAY WEST SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship has been established by Norman West in honor of his wife Carolyn West. Carolyn's dedication as a public teacher has touched the lives of so many and with this scholarship her legacy will continue.

Recipient: Alyssa Potts

Middle Grades Social Studies

BARBARA H. CAPPS OUTSTANDING JUNIOR IN MIDDLE GRADES EDUCATION AWARD

The Barbara H. Capps Outstanding Junior in Middle Grades Education Award is presented annually to the student recognized by the Elementary and Middle Grades faculty as the most outstanding junior in middle grades education. The award is based on the teacher candidate's potential to have an influence in middle grades education and is selected based on academic performance, collegiality, and commitment to the profession.

Recipient: Grace Houston

Middle Grades Social Studies

MALVERY BOTNER OUTSTANDING JUNIOR IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AWARD

The Malvery Botner Outstanding Junior in Elementary Education is presented annually to the student recognized by the Elementary and Middle Grades faculty as the most outstanding junior in elementary and reading education. The award is based on the teacher candidate's potential to have an influence in elementary education and is selected based on academic performance, collegiality, and commitment to the profession.

Recipient: Caitlin Lambert

Elementary Education

OUTSTANDING SENIOR IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AWARD

The faculty in the Department of Elementary and Middle Grades Education selects one recipient for the Outstanding Senior Award each year. The award is based on scholarship, collegiality, and commitment to the profession and quality of work in public schools at the elementary level.

Recipient: Catherine Walker

Elementary Education

RACHEL R. WILLIAMS SWEET SCHOLARSHIP

Established in 1986 by Rev. Worth Sweet to honor his wife's love of the mountains and respect for WCU, this scholarship provides support for students who are majoring in elementary education. Rachel Williams Sweet graduated from WCU in 1935 and served as student body president. Following graduation, she taught elementary school for 31 years in western North Carolina.

Recipient: Courtney Thomas

Elementary Education

PAMELA M. SEKULOW SCHOLARSHIP

The Pamela M. Sekulow Scholarship is presented annually to an academically deserving junior or senior pursuing a degree in elementary education in the College of Education and Allied Professions. The purpose of this scholarship is to provide support for a student who shows potential and promise in the field of elementary education.

Recipient: Kaitlyn Dodson

Elementary Education

LEONE HYDE RAY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

The family of Leone Hyde Ray established this endowed fund to provide scholarship support for education students attending Western Carolina University. This scholarship is awarded each year to a graduating high school senior from Graham County, NC. Ray was the first female in her family to attend college and paid her own way through Western Carolina Teachers College (now Western Carolina University) and graduated in 1941. She taught elementary school for 40 years, first in North Carolina and then Tennessee.

Recipient: Lauren McGuire

Elementary Education

MYRTLE OLIVIA WHITMIRE SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was endowed in honor and memory of Myrtle Whitmire by her friends, teaching colleagues, former students and family members. Ms. Whitmire served as an elementary school teacher in Macon and Transylvania Counties and was one of the mountain region's most beloved school teachers.

Recipient: Alexis Dills *Elementary Education*
Kristian Lea Duenas *Elementary Education*
Caitlin Lambert *Elementary Education*
Carolyna Padilla *Elementary Education*
Gabriella Rodriguez *Elementary Education*
Ashton Rogers *Elementary Education*

STEPHANIE ANN STOW SCHOLARSHIP

Endowed by family and friends in memory of Stephanie Stow, this scholarship provides support to students who are completing their student teaching. Stephanie had returned to school to pursue her teaching certification following her undergraduate coursework in marketing. She was completing her student teaching at Asheville High School at the time of her death.

Recipient: Bailey DeHart *Elementary Education*

JANE LAUGHRIDGE TEASLEY SCHOLARSHIP

Endowed through the generosity of alumni Ken and Jane Teasley, this scholarship provides support to students who are majoring in elementary education. Jane earned both her undergraduate and graduate degrees in education at Western Carolina University and worked for the Haywood County School System in both teaching and administrative roles throughout her career. Ken established this scholarship to honor her dedication and excellence in the teaching profession.

Recipient: Riley Wolf *Elementary Education*

REAGAN LEE HARTLEY SCHOLARSHIP

In 2014 the friends and family of Regan Lee Hartley endowed this scholarship in her memory. Reagan passed away after a tragic automobile accident on the final day of her student teaching. Recipients of this merit-based scholarship must be an Elementary Education major, in their student teaching semester.

Recipient: Brooke Hargett *Elementary Education*

REGION 1A NORTH CAROLINA RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is designed for outstanding seniors in any field of education and is awarded annually to a rising senior in the College of Education and Allied Professions who is a resident of one of the thirteen western North Carolina counties.

Recipient: Melissa Unger *Inclusive Education*

KATHERINE BROWN WELLS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Endowed by Katherine Brown Wells, this scholarship honors the impact WCU has made on her life. Katherine was born in Cullowhee and started college at WCU (then called the Western Carolina Teacher's College) at the age of sixteen, graduating in 1941. She and her husband Harold had four children, three of whom also attended WCU. She established this scholarship at the age of 97 to honor her original hometown of Cullowhee and to help future educators be successful and impact the lives of generations to come.

Recipient: Gabriel McCoy *Social Science Education*

WOMEN IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Established in honor of the commitment and dedication of Alice Benton, Helen Hartshorn, June Benson, Sue Persons, Chris Friesner, Betty Westmoreland Suhre and Betty Peele, these women represent more than 238 years of service to WCU. Through their work on campus and throughout North Carolina, they have touched the lives of thousands of students and physical education professionals. This scholarship provides on-going support to students in the Health and Physical Education program who will follow in the footsteps of these leaders.

Recipient: Frank Minervini *Health and Physical Education*

CLAXTON FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship has been generously endowed in memory of Henry Brannan and Dorothy Claxton who believed strongly in the importance of public education and the positive impact of physically active lifestyles. Drs. David and Mae Claxton established this scholarship to provide support to students majoring in health and physical education. David Claxton served as Department Chair for Health and Human Performance and Mae is a member of the English Department faculty.

Recipient: Megan Dalton *Health and Physical Education*

ALICE ALICE BENTON AWARD OUTSTANDING PHYSICAL EDUCATION MAJOR

The Alice Benton Award for Outstanding Physical Education Major is awarded annually to a student who has demonstrated outstanding academic performance and involvement in activities related to the major both on and off campus.

Recipient: Ashlee Caraker *Health and Physical Education*

OTTO H. SPILKER SCHOLARSHIP

Established by friends and colleagues of Otto Spilker, this scholarship is awarded each year to a student in the Health and Physical Education Program in the School of Teaching and Learning. Dr. Spilker was a member of the WCU faculty for over 40 years and retired as Professor Emeritus of Health and Human Performance.

Recipient: Caleb Henson *Health and Physical Education*

LEE C. PHOENIX MEMORIAL HONORS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

Endowed through the generosity of Margaret Agee, her husband, David, and their children, this scholarship honors Margaret's father, who was a lifelong educator. Lee Phoenix graduated from Western in 1940 with his bachelor of science degree. During his time as a student, he began the Future Teachers of America Chapter, rang the Joyner bell, and worked in the Student Union to help pay for his education. He served as principal and superintendent in various North Carolina communities until his retirement. Throughout his professional career and into retirement, he remained a proud Catamount.

Recipient: Kayla Lopez-Turijan *Elementary Education*

DR. JOHN FRANKLYN JACOBS GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. Jacqueline Jacobs, retired WCU professor, has endowed this scholarship in memory of her husband and in honor of his work in the field of special education. He was passionate about children and believed that every child can learn. John and Jacqueline traveled the world educating students in K-12 and higher education. This scholarship honors John's legacy through its support of students in the field of education.

Recipient: Callie Driver *Special Education MAT*

SHARON DOLE, PHD SCHOLARSHIP

Endowed through the generosity of Dr. Sharon Dole, this scholarship provides support for graduate students in the Special Education Program with a gifted, creative and innovative education track. Dr. Dole is a retired faculty member of the College of Education and Allied Professions.

Recipient: Ansley Parker

Inclusive Education

ROSEMARY CAMERON SCHOLARSHIP

Endowed through the generosity of John and Joanne Reid who are both alumni of Western Carolina University, this scholarship provides support to students who have a career interest in teaching special education. The scholarship is in memory and honor of Joanne's sister Rosemary who was a dedicated special education teacher.

Recipient: McKenzie Lee

Inclusive Education

KATHARINE R. REICH & EMMA H. RUSS SCHOLARSHIP

Endowed by Henry and Rebecca Russ, the Katharine R. Reich and Emma H. Russ Scholarship provides support for students majoring in education and is open to both in-state and out-of-state students.

Recipient: Jessica Harasti

Elementary Education

JANE B. SCHULZ SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship program was established by Jane B. Schulz, Professor Emeritus of Special Education, who served as a faculty member in the Department of Human Services for over 25 years. Dr. Schulz was a pioneer in the inclusion of children with disabilities in schools. Her scholarship supports non-traditional, full-time students who have elected inclusive education as their major course of study at WCU and have demonstrated academic excellence in their program.

Recipient: Bailey Dickerson

Inclusive Education

BETTY JO AND MARK A. KNOTT SCHOLARSHIP

Endowed through the generosity of Mark and Betty Jo Knott, this scholarship provides support for students who are majoring in inclusive education. Mark is a two time graduate of Western Carolina University. Betty Jo authored "Wake Up Rhonda" and encourages recipients of the scholarship to read the book to gain some insight into who their family is and why their future work with special needs children is so important.

Recipient: Ciara Primo

Inclusive Education

FRANCES FARLINGER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established by Thomas Gibson and other members of Malvern Hills Presbyterian Church in memory of Frances Farlinger. Frances earned her master's degree in special education at WCU in 1958. She taught students with special needs at the Aycok School in Asheville and was active in her church.

Recipient: Allison Snyder

Inclusive Education

KEVIN J. BRADSHAW SCHOLARSHIP

Endowed through the generosity of Brad ('76) and Eileen Bradshaw, this scholarship provides support to students majoring in inclusive education. Brad is a WCU alumnus and has served as Chair of the Western Carolina University Foundation.

Recipient: Bethany Nicholson

Inclusive Education

Allison Snyder

Inclusive Education

STEVEN C. JONES SCHOLARSHIP

Established through the generosity of Eva and Jacob Jones, this scholarship reflects the memory of Steven C. Jones, a well-known Jackson County educator and associate superintendent. Steven, a two-time graduate of WCU, had a lifelong interest in helping children with disabilities. The Steven C. Jones Scholarship is awarded to an academically worthy sophomore from western North Carolina who demonstrates financial need and has provided a distinguished level of service to the inclusive education community.

Recipient: Hailey McGee

Inclusive Education

LITTLE E.J. SCHOLARSHIP

The Little E.J. Scholarship was created by Blanton J. and E.J. Whitmire, longtime friends and benefactors of Western Carolina University, in honor of their son "Little E.J.". This scholarship provides support to students who have proven themselves to be deserving and who have career potential in the field of special education.

Recipient: Paige Lindley

Inclusive Education

Bailey Dickerson

Inclusive Education

Shannon Smith

Inclusive Education

JOSEPH R. RAMSEY SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established through the generosity of David Ramsey in honor of his father Joseph R. Ramsey (Joe). Joe, a native of Madison County was the first in his family to attend college, attending WCU after completing service in the U.S. Army. He served in various roles in the Asheville area including principal and Director of Special Education for the Asheville City School System. Joe passed in 1974 but left a legacy in the Asheville area of helping those in need. David has endowed this scholarship in hopes that it will allow a deserving student from Madison County to obtain an education degree from WCU.

Recipient: Matthew Brotherton

Music Education

RANDALL AND SYBIL DUCKETT SCHOLARSHIP

Siblings Tom Duckett and Laura Duckett established this scholarship in honor of their parents, Randall ('37, '53) and Sybil ('53) who made lifelong careers out of teaching others. Sybil taught math and science for many years in WNC, was a demonstration teacher at WCU's lab school, and later taught math extension courses for WCU. Randall held both teaching and administrative roles in Buncombe County, NC. as well as serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps. Randall and Sybil instilled the value of education in their children and their legacy of education now live on with their grandchildren.

Recipient: Molly Keith

Elementary Education

Byson Tenesaca Guaman

Comprehensive Art Education MAT

PSYCHOLOGY

HEDY AND VANESSA WHITE SCHOLARSHIP

The Hedy and Vanessa White Scholarship Fund has been established by Ms. Carol Taylor in honor and in memory of Dr. Hedy White, and her daughter Vanessa. Dr. White was an outstanding professor in the Department of Psychology at Western Carolina University for more than two decades. This scholarship provides support for undergraduate or graduate students studying psychology.

Recipient: Hannah Durand

Psychology

JOHN H. WAKELEY SCHOLARSHIP

In honor of her husband John "Jack" Wakeley, Mrs. Sue Wakeley established this scholarship to support psychology students. Wakeley served as WCU's Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs from 1987 to 1996; he then returned to teaching as a professor of psychology until his retirement in 1999. He shall be remembered as a gentleman, a brilliant scholar, and a significant part of WCU's history.

Recipient: Shawn Armstrong

Psychology

CECIL W. MANN AWARD

This award is presented to an outstanding senior psychology major. Recipients of this award have demonstrated: excellence in classroom scholarship, scholarly activities outside the classroom such as involvement in research, conference participation, or other creative endeavors and other psychology-related activities such as internship or volunteer work.

Recipient: Lauren Testerman

Psychology

LINDA ELAINE GLENN SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is in memory of Linda Elaine Glenn who was a psychology major at WCU at the time of her death. Established by her family, this scholarship serves as a living memorial of how lifelong learning and educational opportunities enrich our lives.

Recipient: Alexia Romero

Psychology

MILNER/Psi CHI RESEARCH AWARD

This award is presented to a psychology major who has shown excellence in the area of research. The following criteria is used in selecting a recipient: active involvement in research projects with one or more faculty members over at least a year's period, and recognition of the student's research activities through publication or presentation of research findings at professional meetings.

Recipient: Terran Saine

Psychology

TAYLOR HUSKINS SERVICE AWARD

This award is given for unusual service to the Department of Psychology by a student who has a major, minor, concentration, or disciplinary focus area in psychology. The criteria for the award include: (a) involvement: active service in professional affairs such as the Psychology Club, Psi Chi, other honor societies at the university, tutoring, community work, advisement, etc. (b) volunteerism: volunteer work in the organization of the department, including maintenance of labs, classrooms, bulletin boards, the Cecil Mann library, production of newsletters, and contact with prospective students at the department, school, or university levels.

Recipient: Jacob Ledford

Psychology

CHRISTINE BILES LEDFORD SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established in memory of Christine Biles Ledford by her husband Al Ledford. Christine attended the University of Kentucky, graduating with both a Bachelor of Sciences and a Master's Degree in Social Work. During her career, she was a champion of the public health system and worked tirelessly to ensure women and their children received timely and effective access to physical and mental health services. This scholarship provides support for students in the Doctor of Psychology in Health Services Psychology Program (PsyD.).

Recipient: Rebecca Daniel

Doctor of Psychology

Alyssa Raggio

Doctor of Psychology

Heather Styles-Turbyfill

Doctor of Psychology

GENERAL SCHOLARSHIPS / AWARDS

MICHAEL DOUGHERTY FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

Endowed by friends and colleagues in honor of retired Dean of Education, Michael A. Dougherty, for 30 years of service, this scholarship provides support for students in the College of Education and Allied Professions.

Recipient: Rachel Colton

Elementary Education

MYRTLE OLIVIA WHITMIRE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN EDUCATION

Endowed through the generosity of Blanton and Margaret Whitmire, this scholarship provides support for students wishing to teach in early childhood education. Myrtle Whitmire was a beloved public-school teacher in both Macon and Transylvania counties. This scholarship is in honor of her devotion to the teaching profession during her long and illustrious career.

Recipient: Samantha Flanagan

Elementary Education

Taylor Fulghan

Elementary Education

Kelly Sylvester

Birth-Kindergarten

Luke Webb

Elementary Education

MYRTLE OLIVIA WHITMIRE MEMORIAL SENIOR INTERN SCHOLARSHIP IN EDUCATION

Endowed through the generosity of Blanton and Margaret Whitmire, this scholarship provides support for students wishing to teach in early childhood education. Myrtle Whitmire was a beloved public-school teacher in both Macon and Transylvania counties. This scholarship is in honor of her devotion to the teaching profession during her long and illustrious career.

Recipient: Ashley Byrd

Birth-Kindergarten

Reagan Carr

Birth-Kindergarten

Casey Fender

Elementary Education

Haley Yost

Elementary Education

ROBERT LEE & ELLA RICHARDS MADISON SCHOLARSHIP

Endowed through the generosity of the Madison family, this scholarship was endowed in honor of Robert Lee and Ella Richards Madison, the university's founder and his wife. The scholarship provides financial support for students who are majoring in education

Recipient: Makayla McClure

Inclusive Education

DUANE & WANDA REID SCHOLARSHIP

Endowed through the generosity of Duane and Wanda Reid, this scholarship provides support to education and business majors. Preference is given to students who are the first in their family to go to college and who are involved in community activities.

Recipient: Beverly Brown

Birth-Kindergarten

ED & BERTHA HENSON REED SCHOLARSHIP

Lucile Reed Edwards endowed this scholarship in memory of her parents, Ed and Bertha Reed. Ed was a Jackson County businessman, and Bertha Henson Reed, a 1908 graduate of Cullowhee State Normal and Industrial School (now WCU) and public school teacher. The purpose of the scholarship is to provide support for WCU students from Jackson County who are majoring in education or business.

Recipient: Zoe Alvarez

English Education

Rachel Colton

Elementary Education

Alexis Dills

Elementary Education

MARY ALICE GAMBILL SHUFORD AND DR. DAVID F. SHUFORD ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Established in 2013, the Mary Alice Gambill Shuford and Dr. David F. Shuford Endowed Scholarship is awarded to a deserving student majoring in education.

Recipient: *Angela Hair* Special Education MAT

JACKSON COUNTY TEACHER EDUCATION ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

Ron Mau endowed this annual scholarship to honor his wife Rochelle, who is a retired Jackson County, NC teacher. This annual scholarship provides scholarship supports students pursuing a degree in education in hopes to ensure finances are not a road block in helping students pursue a career in education.

Recipient: *Zoe Alvarez* English Education

DR. JANICE H. HOLT SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established by Janice’s family. Janice H. Holt ('76,'77,' 87,'12) was a WCU faculty member and National Board-Certified teacher who taught in Jackson County for more than 20 years. She was instrumental in developing the university’s program to support pre-service, beginning, and career teachers throughout their journey; she established the Teacher Recruitment Advising and Career Support (TRACS) office and led the development of the WHEE Teach Living Learning Community. This scholarship continues Dr. Janice H. Holt’s legacy as a “champion for all teachers” and is awarded to a rising senior in the WHEE Teach Program.

Recipient: *Dom Pinkney* Elementary Education

MORRILL FAMILY FUND FOR RESEARCH IN EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established in 1992 by Dr. Maurice B. and Anna C. Morrill as a memorial to honor Nell Jane Morrill and other members of the Morrill family who were associated with Western Carolina University. This scholarship is designed to help provide and promote desirable research relating to the improvement of teaching at any educational level as well as enhancing the abilities of graduate students in education to produce and use quality research.

Recipient: *Jerad Crave* Educational Leadership
Tori Golden Elementary Education, literacy

DR. JANICE H. HOLT FRESHMAN WHEE TEACH LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award recognizes the freshman Whee Teach Living and Learning Community student who exemplifies the qualities that Dr. Janice Holt embodied as a consummate leader and champion for pre-service and professional educators across the western region of North Carolina. These qualities include dedication to the field of education, a creative vision, demonstration of positive leadership and team building skills, a tireless work ethic, and the desire to make a significant difference in the lives of others.

Recipient: *Caleb Chipman* Inclusive Education

WHEE TEACH OUTSTANDING MENTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

The WHEE Teach Mentor of the Year is presented to the student mentor who best demonstrates the distinguishing traits of a successful, loyal mentor: trustworthiness, empathy, willingness to devote time to others, a positive attitude, dependability, availability, honesty, and effective communication skills.

Recipient: *Dom Pinkney* Elementary Education

FACULTY / STAFF AWARDS

2019-2020

TAFT B. BOTNER AWARD FOR SUPERIOR TEACHING.....*Marissa Ray*

LEGISLATIVE AWARD FOR SUPERIOR TEACHING.....*Darrius Stanley*
Alicia Grande

DEAN’S RESEARCH AWARD*Gayle Maddox*

SOARING HIGH AWARD.....*Lisa Bloom*

EXEMPLARY SERVICE AWARD*Regina Aton*
Nancy Luke

GOOD NEWS AWARD.....*Derek Becker*
Ellie Blair
Jon Campbell
Karena Cooper-Duffy
Cathy Grist
Brandi Hinnant-Crawford
Gayle Maddox
Phyllis Robertson
Roya Scales
Heidi Von Dohlen
Jess Weiler

**THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING
STUDENTS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS
TO TODAY’S CEREMONY:**

Piper Collins
Emily Freeze
Caitlin Lambert
Katherine Spaulding

STUDENT NEWS RELEASES

WCU’s Office of Public Relations and Communications routinely sends news releases about student activities and honors to the hometown/local newspapers of the students involved. Students being recognized at the College of Education & Allied Professions awards ceremony who wish to take advantage of that service should visit the website

<http://studentawards.wcu.edu>