



THE HOT SHEET

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President's Message

Happy Fall y'all!

I am looking forward to seeing all or most of you at the Scholarship Luncheon on November 5th. I always feel very gratified after I hear from our scholarship recipients. Hearing their stories reminds me again that what we work so hard to do is really making a difference.

Our monthly Lunch Bunch has been a great way to stay in touch with our friends that we may not get to see all the time. We will continue them in the new year.

The board is working on trying to set up a couple of meetings with programs – we will send out more information as we figure things out. Hope everyone has a great fall and upcoming holiday season whether you travel or stay home. Be safe!

Sue

MEET THE 2022-2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

ALEEYA GREGORY

Aleeya graduated from National Park College (NPC) with an Associate of Science in Elementary Education K-6. The scholarship will be of assistance in her transfer to Henderson State University to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, starting fall of 2022. There is no doubt that she will successfully graduate in 2024, since she graduated from NPC with a 4.0 grade point average while working and helping raise her two younger siblings!

The desire to teach is deep-seated. Aleeya's second grade teacher's helpfulness and personal interest made a strong impression on her. Additionally, Aleeya's grandfather taught construction technology. She would accompany him to classes and think, "I'm going to do that." During her junior year at Lakeside High School, she was able to actually experience teaching in a classroom.

Longer range plans for Aleeya center on earning a master's degree in Library Science, and then working in a library in the elementary school arena. Her library interest also has been long ingrained. Her grandfather took an excited Aleeya to the library every weekend. While at Cutter Morning-Star High School for her senior year, she had the opportunity to be a library aide daily during her free periods. She continued to pursue her interest in library science by working as a library technician at NPC. She feels that the aide position "helped me tremendously" In preparing for a career in library science and/or teaching.



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AURA LOARCA

Aura, a student who did not really like school, has been inspired by watching her two sisters and the sacrifices they made to get an education. After working so her two sisters were able to focus on their education, Aura finally decided it was time for her to fulfill her dream of becoming an RN. With two small children – ages 3 and 4 – and a full-time job as a medical assistant, Aura has carried a 4.0 GPA for the last three semesters and intends to keep working hard to maintain her grades.

Aura has been employed at Genesis Cancer Center as a medical assistant for the last three years. She describes her job there as gratifying and compassionate. As she progressed there, she came to think that if she became a registered nurse, she would be better able to help her patients going through chemotherapy.

Aura believes that education is essential and is working on showing her kids that even non-traditional students can be successful no matter the obstacles. She has been and will continue to juggle being a mom, employee and student until she graduates with her Associate of Science degree in May of 2024.



JAMIE WALSH

Jamie graduated from Mountain Pine High School, where she was an honor student. She continues her academic accomplishments at National Park College as a vocal music education major, maintaining a 3.9 GPA. Jamie is not only a good student but, according to two of her professors, she has a musical talent in voice and piano, with an excellent work ethic. She has a desire to never dwell on negativity and a willingness to meet life's challenges.

Jamie tries to be a positive person, using daily affirmations as well as acceptance of herself. She lives with her father, grandmother and a younger sister. In addition to her studies, she works part time as a waitress. While she is the third female in her family to attend college, Jamie would like to be the first to go on to earn both a master's degree and a doctorate. To that end, she will be transferring to Arkansas Tech in the fall.

She dreams to teach someday at the collegiate level to impact students with the joy of music. Jamie would like to build a music department in a high school to inspire young people to appreciate and learn more about music. She believes that education should be available to all and that a good education helps individuals to think for themselves and to recognize the need for diversity.



JINNY WINCHELL

Jinny has recently graduated as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) from National Park College and is starting the LPN to RN program – an accelerated educational path that builds on the education and experience gained in the LPN program to jumpstart the coursework required to become a registered nurse.

In addition to attending school, Winchell works as a hair designer, takes care of four children and various family members, and has just started a job as an LPN in geriatrics. She is also interested in languages and said that learning sign language is her next goal and, “after that, Spanish.”

Winchell became interested in the medical profession after years of being a caregiver to members of her family. Both her husband and father had cancer; her husband also suffers from chronic Crohn’s disease and has had multiple surgeries; and her mother-in-law has diabetes. Even her youngest child had to have surgery when she was two months old. “I just want to give back my knowledge, and I believe I can care for others the way I would want for my family,” she said.

Winchell is planning to go into geriatric or medical-surgery nursing (the care of patients either preparing for or recovering from surgery). She is also interested in joining a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) but has not found opportunities yet.

Once she starts the RN program, she will probably be participating in internships or clinical work. She said, “When opportunities pop up, I am willing to go for it.”



LESLIE HUGGS

Leslie Huggs was a graduate of Benton High School in 2019. She has a license in cosmetology, but life events led her to pursue a career in respiratory care and she hopes to eventually transfer to UAMS College of Health Professions to earn a bachelor’s degree. She is currently enrolled at National Park College.

Leslie enjoyed five years on her high school dance team and the leadership role she had while on the team. She will continue to be on the NPC cheer team in the fall. In addition to the cheer team, she will also be secretary for NPC Student Government Activities, and she described this organization as one that represents the voice of the student body. She also has a part-time job at NPC.

Leslie is taking three classes at NPC this summer, which will make her eligible for the respiratory therapy program in the fall, and it will result in her graduation from National Park College in 2023, a year earlier than originally planned.

Leslie’s interest in respiratory care was a result of the years of COVID 19, and the failing health of her father and mother. She observed the excellent care her father received during his hospitalization in 2020, and she was inspired to change her career plans to something that focused on health services. In spite of the health issues her parents are experiencing, they are able to focus on, and be very supportive of, Leslie and her educational pursuits; she currently carries a 4.0 GPA.



NATALIE LAMBERT

Natalie is passionate about education. She wants to learn everything so she can bring the best to her future elementary school students. Her 3.7 GPA, as an honor student, attests to her intellectual abilities and points to her love of learning. Natalie consistently makes the President's List and the Dean's List.

Two very pivotal events shaped Natalie's path to a career in teaching: First, her 4th grade teacher became her role model when she helped Natalie overcome some reading difficulties. Mrs. Kristen Gordon, now a principal, understood what the problem was, and devoted one-on-one time to help Natalie in reading comprehension. Natalie says that Mrs. Gordon's hands-on approach opened up a new way of looking at reading and now a new way of teaching – one that she would like to emulate.

Natalie was fortunate to participate in a Lakeside Senior High program, "Orientation to Teaching." It was during this time, by observing the children, assisting the teacher, and even grading papers, that she not only knew that she truly wanted to be a teacher, but also what kind of teacher she wanted to be: open, and close to her students.

As a realistic person, Natalie took on a job at National Park College as a library technician to help pay the tuition and has applied to many scholarship programs, student aid and student loans. However, she always makes time to volunteer to tutor other students. Natalie will pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education at Central Arkansas University.



NOVA OLOSAN

Nova Olosan is a student at National Park College, seeking a degree in nursing. After moving to the United States to be with family, Nova discovered her Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Santo Tomas in Philippines did not transfer to the United States. She was not deterred in her desire to succeed.

Nova has demonstrated a desire to expand her knowledge while serving others. She works with First Step, providing day-to-day care to adults with development disabilities. In her position, Nova is responsible for maintaining a healthy, safe, and therapeutic environment for individuals and documenting their progress. She also is serving an internship with Abilities Unlimited in Hot Springs. Nova has demonstrated a positive, prompt, and reliable attitude. She has worked with Philippines Red Cross Youth Council, Christ Youth in Action Service Council, and American Association of University Women Junior Chapter.



YOLONZA FORD

Having received her associate's degree from National Park College, Yolonza is now working on her bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Arkansas in Ft. Smith, graduating in May 2023. Yolonza was first inspired by her police officer grandfather, who encouraged her to follow her interest in the justice system. During this summer, she is working as an intern with the HS Police Department, where her inspiring grandfather served.

Following her graduation next year, Yolonza will work with the Houston Forensic Center in Houston, Texas. She will be assigned first to a 13-week academy program in Oakridge, Tennessee, and will then return to Houston. Yolonza maintains a grade point average over 3.0 and frequents the Dean's List. During her educational program she was selected to participate in a program called the National Society of Leadership and Success. Through this program she participated in training broadcasts led by experienced national leaders, including, among many others, Presidents Obama and Bush, Mark Cuban and Deepak Chopra. She was able to engage with other young leaders across the country, learning how to engage with a peer group as well as completing a journal documenting her progress and goals. She was awarded the Foundations of Leadership certification.

Yolonza has a true passion for social justice and advocacy. She has already made significant contributions in community service work and maintains a fierce determination to succeed. Respectful, empathetic and hardworking, Yolonza lives by her personal belief that every finish line is the beginning of a new race.

