



LOCAL STUDENTS SELECTED FOR \$14,000 GOLDEN LEAF FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

ROCKY MOUNT, N.C., (June 27, 2024) - Today, the Golden LEAF Foundation announced that 215 rural North Carolina students were selected to receive up to a \$14,000 Golden LEAF Scholarship, including two in Randolph County.

High school seniors entering college as first year students are eligible for a \$3,500 scholarship each year for up to four years of undergraduate study at a participating four-year North Carolina college or university. Community college transfer students are eligible for \$3,500 a year for up to three years of undergraduate study.

Recipients from rural or economically distressed North Carolina counties are selected based on future career goals and an expressed intent to contribute to the state's rural communities upon graduation from college.

The Golden LEAF Foundation established the Golden LEAF Scholarship Program to broaden educational opportunities and provide support to students from rural counties with the goal that recipients will return and contribute to rural communities after graduation. The North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA) administers the program and selects students for awards.

"We are proud to award scholarships to hardworking and bright students with deep roots in their rural communities," said Scott T. Hamilton, Golden LEAF Foundation President, Chief Executive Officer. "These students were selected out of a pool of nearly 2,000 applicants. We look forward to the future success of these scholarship recipients as they follow their education pursuits and develop into North Carolina's next generation of rural leaders."

Scholarship recipients may also apply for the Golden LEAF Rural Internship Initiative. The Rural Internship Initiative provides Golden LEAF Scholars with professional work experience related to their career field in a rural North Carolina community. The Golden LEAF Foundation provides funding to pay interns \$15 per hour for up to 400 hours of work. Internships take place between May and August.

"Congratulations to the students in my district who have received the Golden LEAF Scholarship," said Senator David Craven. "This prestigious scholarship is given to students who are committed to improving their rural communities and each student is deserving of this opportunity. I am very proud of them and what their future holds."

"It is because of students like the ones in my district that I have confidence in the future of our rural communities," said Senator Amy Galey. "Congratulations on receiving a Golden LEAF Scholarship. You have been provided an exceptional opportunity to gain invaluable skills that will positively impact our community long after you graduate from college."

"I offer my sincere appreciation to these exceptional students for earning the Golden LEAF Scholarship," said Representative Robert Reives. "Your tenacity has paid off, and I have no doubt it will yield tremendous benefit for years to come. It's because of you that I have hope in a strong future for our rural communities."

"Congratulations to the students from Randolph County for receiving the Golden LEAF Scholarship," said Representative Brian Biggs "Gracie Brewer and Gracie Marshall have already demonstrated leadership and strong commitment to the community. I look forward to hearing of their future success."

"My sincerest congratulations to Gracie Brewer and Gracie Marshall for earning this award," said Representative Neal Jackson. "You are recognized as a leader who is not afraid to work to accomplish your goals. We need students like you to help our communities thrive!"

The newly selected 2024-25 Golden LEAF Scholarship recipients from Randolph County are as follows:

Name	College Name	High School
Gracie Brewer	UNC - Wilmington	Trinity High School
Gracie Marshall	Campbell University	Wheatmore High School

About Golden LEAF Foundation:

The Golden LEAF Foundation is a nonprofit organization established in 1999 to receive a portion of North Carolina's funding from the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement with cigarette manufacturers. For 25 years, Golden LEAF has worked to increase economic opportunity in North Carolina's rural and tobacco-dependent communities through leadership in grantmaking, collaboration, innovation, and stewardship as an independent and perpetual foundation. The Foundation has provided lasting impact to tobacco-dependent, economically distressed, and rural areas of the state by helping create 68,000 jobs, more than \$780 million in new payrolls, and more than 98,000 workers trained or retrained for higher wages. For more information about Golden LEAF and our programs, please visit our website at GoldenLEAF.org.

About North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority:

North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA) administers the program on behalf of the Golden LEAF Foundation. Established in 1965, NCSEAA is the State agency that promotes access to higher education by administering financial aid and savings programs, informing students and families about paying for college, teaching educators about financial aid administration and advocating for resources to support students.

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