



The J. Leroy Cook Memorial Scholarship Program

May 3, 2017

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2017 J. Leroy Cook Memorial Scholarships. A scholarship award will be paid on behalf of each recipient to the college or university he/she plans to attend.

Due to the significant increase in qualified applicants this year, and based on the review of the Scholarship Selection Committee, we have decided to award additional scholarships this year. A similar review and potential additional awards will be made each year strictly based on the number of qualified applicants.

Anthony R. Bishop

Anthony will graduate from the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics this spring with an impressive 5.173 GPA and enter UNC Chapel Hill in the fall. He plans to major in chemistry. He is the son of Tony Bishop, refrigeration manager in Goldsboro, NC. Anthony is an Eagle Scout and serves the Boy Scouts of America as a senior patrol leader. He is vice-president of the Technology Student Association, attending state conferences, competing in quiz bowls and structural engineering challenges. He was technology coordinator for the AWANA youth program at his church. He serves as president of a hiking club and is a teaching assistant in chemistry. A family friend who watched Anthony grow up around airplanes labeled him as an inquisitive third grader who "actually understood complex aerodynamic theory." Anthony is described as a leader and a hard worker. His job experience includes two summers as a floor manager in a cucumber processing plant and a summer as cashier at a Surf City IGA.

Emma D. Smart

Emma will enter UNC Wilmington this fall with a major in biology and chemistry. Her goal is to eventually earn a PhD and engage in medical research. Emma is the daughter of David Smart, broiler supervisor in Morganton, NC. As a student at East Burke High School, Emma was chosen from her congressional district to attend the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics. While at NCSSM she has worked as Student Ambassador, assisting the admissions staff, sorting applications, and giving tours of the campus to potential students, families, and school groups. These responsibilities have developed her leadership and public speaking skills. Emma is also an athlete on the volleyball team. Last year she decided to try out for softball and volunteered to learn to pitch. Through hard work, she excelled and was named Honorable Mention All-Conference in softball. She has served as Captain for both volleyball and softball teams.

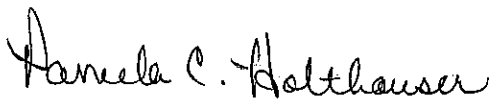
Rita Rai

Rita will graduate from North High School in Akron, OH, and will enter Stark State College this fall. She plans to study nursing. She is the daughter of Ganga Rai, who is a production team member in Canton, OH. While in high school, Rita has been a student volunteer with the Bhutanese Community Association of Akron. She has served on Student Council, participated in a North High School talent show, and maintained honor roll/merit roll status for three years while making "remarkable progress in her mastery of English." She was recognized for perfect attendance in 2014-15 and received a math award in 2016. As an office worker in high school, she is praised for being polite, respectful, and efficient. Last summer she worked in a restaurant kitchen, learning to better communicate and follow directions.

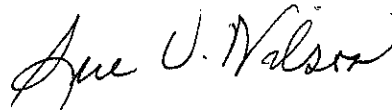
Whisper Z. Smith

Whisper will enroll in UNC Asheville as a junior this fall, having graduated from Burke Middle College high school and Western Piedmont Community College. She earned a 4.7 GPA in high school and a 4.0 GPA at Western Piedmont. She plans to major in Environmental Studies at UNC Asheville. Whisper is the daughter of Turley Joe Smith, who is a production team member in Morganton, NC. During her high school years, she served as Student Council Secretary, was a member of National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Key Club, and Spirit Club. Reflecting her passion for the outdoors and the environment, she participated in The American Adventure Service Corps (TAASC) and Wild South, maintaining trails, cutting brush, digging ditches, hauling tires out of Linville Gorge, and organizing trail days. She was a volunteer with the Burke County Search and Rescue Team. Her other work experience includes waitressing at local restaurants.

2017 J. Leroy Cook Memorial Scholarship Selection Committee



Pamela C. Holthouser



Sue V. Wilson