

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society Announces 2025–2026 Scholarship Recipients

The Phi Eta Sigma National Board of Directors is proud to announce the 2025–2026 Founders Fund Scholarship recipients. More than \$300,000 in local and national scholarships and awards were distributed to Phi Eta Sigma members who demonstrated exceptional academic achievement, campus and community involvement, and meaningful engagement with Phi Eta Sigma at the chapter and/or national level.

“One of the things we are most proud of at Phi Eta Sigma is our Founders Fund scholarship program, which every member contributes to yearly as part of their lifetime dues. It is an excellent way to pay the mission of the Society forward for future generations,” said Dr. Mary Lee Caldwell, Executive Director. “These members have exemplified the purposes and mission of Phi Eta Sigma. We couldn’t be prouder of—and more impressed by—all of our applicants and recipients this year.”

### A Legacy of Investing in Scholars

Since 1940, Phi Eta Sigma has awarded more than \$7 million in scholarships to its members nationwide. Each year, the Founders Fund supports students through three \$10,000 Scholar of the Year awards, six graduate student scholarships, thirty-seven undergraduate scholarships, and additional Elevate Scholarships for undergraduate and graduate members.

### Scholar Leaders of the Year

- Benjamin Anderson — McKendree University (Foy-Sagabiel Undergraduate Scholar of the Year)
- Karson McHendry — Old Dominion University (Centennial Leader / Scholar of the Year)
- Stephanie Washburn — University of Florida (Thomas Arkle Clark Graduate Scholar of the Year)

### Graduate Scholarship Recipients

- Lyndsey Buren — Monmouth University (Kendrick C. Babcock Graduate Scholar)
- Avery Carrino — University of Central Florida (Charles M. Thompson Graduate Scholar)
- Dillon Cook — The University of Alabama (G. Herbert Smith Graduate Scholar)
- Nicole Kaufeldt — The University of Alabama (Fred H. Turner Graduate Scholar)
- Gabriella Sblendorio — IU Indianapolis (Scott Goodnight Graduate Scholar)
- Seanna Zona — Mercyhurst University (William Tate Graduate Scholar)

### Undergraduate & Elevate Scholarship Recipients

A complete list of undergraduate and Elevate Scholarship recipients is available on the Phi Eta Sigma website and included in the official archival version of this release.

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About Phi Eta Sigma: Founded in 1923 at the University of Illinois, Phi Eta Sigma is the nation's oldest and largest honor society for first-year college and university students across all disciplines. Since its founding, more than 1.2 million scholars have been inducted. The Society's motto is "Knowledge is Power."