



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Alaska Travel Industry Association Foundation Announces Scholarship Recipients

\$29,000 Awarded to Students Across Alaska

Anchorage, AK – The Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA) Foundation announced \$29,000 in scholarship awards to 17 outstanding recipients from across the state. These competitive, one-year awards recognize students who have a passion to succeed in fields related to the travel industry.

“At a time when Alaska’s tourism industry is struggling due to the devastating effects of COVID-19, the ATIA Foundation scholarship awards look toward a brighter future,” said Sarah Leonard, ATIA President and CEO. “These students are pursuing degrees that emphasize leadership, business development, marketing, and hands-on skills that will greatly benefit Alaska tourism – and our communities – in the long-run.”

Thank you to the named donors and ATIA members who support this annual program.

Alaska Airlines Scholarship

Rafael Bitanga, Kodiak, \$1,000
Sawyer Munson, Anchorage, \$1,000

Alaska Collection by Pursuit Scholarship

Laura Sherrill, Ketchikan, \$1,000
Rafael Bitanga, Kodiak, \$1,000

Alaska Railroad Corporation Scholarship

Noah Brandon, Anchorage, \$1,000

All Alaska Tours Scholarship, for students pursuing education in Business Administration.

Chloe Manderson, Anchorage, \$1,500

ATIA 1-year Scholarship

Annalynn Brown, Homer, \$1,500
Brooks Christian, Eagle River, \$2,500
Noah Brandon, Anchorage, \$1,500

ATIA Anchorage Chapter Scholarship

Casey Aragon, Fairbanks, \$1,000

Jade Steele, Delta Junction, \$1,000

ATIA Rural Scholarship

Rafael Bitanga, Kodiak, \$2,000

Chuck West Memorial Scholarship, funded through an endowment established in memory of Chuck West, founder of Westours and Cruise West.

Erika Rauwolf, Ketchikan, \$1,000

CLIA Alaska Scholarship

Annalynn Brown, Homer, \$1,000

Holland America Line Scholarship

Carter Thomas, Ketchikan, \$2,500

Kris Geldaker Memorial Scholarship, awarded in memory of Kris Geldaker to students pursuing a tourism or maritime-related degree.

Alex Malouf, Ketchikan, \$2,500

Premier Alaska Tours Scholarship

Ellie Wells, Anchorage, \$1,500

Ivan Irish Nate, Anchorage, \$1,000

Talkeetna Air Taxi Scholarship

Sullivan Schulz, Ketchikan, \$1,000

Tim McDonnell Mentorship Scholarship, funded through the support of Alaska Coach Tours in honor of Tim McDonnell, the former vice president of Alaska operations for Princess and Holland America Lines.

Jessica Whitehead, Skagway, \$1,000

White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad Scholarship

Madison Cox, Skagway, \$1,500

The ATIA Foundation invests in Alaskans to ensure the quality of people employed in Alaska's visitor industry. Scholarship recipients are enrolled in a program of study in preparation for a career in tourism. Since 2001, the ATIA Foundation has awarded thousands of dollars of scholarships to more than 175 individuals. Funds are raised from members during ATIA's annual convention and through business sponsorships.

The Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA) is the leading industry organization promoting Alaska as a top visitor destination, communicating and promoting the Alaskan tourism industry as one of the state's major economic forces, and is the respected voice of the industry for the growth of the industry, while remaining stewards of the state's natural resources, cultures and Alaska's unique quality of life.

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Alaska's leading statewide nonprofit membership organization for the Alaska travel industry.