



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Alaska Travel Industry Association Foundation Announces Scholarship Recipients**

### *\$25,000 Awarded to Students Across Alaska*

**Anchorage, AK** – The Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA) Foundation announced \$25,000 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. The 2018 recipients, chosen from a pool of more than 25 candidates, will be recognized at an annual ATIA Foundation Reception in May.

2018-2019 ATIA Foundation Scholarship Recipients:

#### **Holland America Line Scholarship**

Funded through the support of Holland America Line.

Awardees:       Stuart Relay, Valdez, AK - \$2,500  
                  Eliza Oldham, Eagle River, AK - \$1,000

#### **Kris Geldaker Memorial Scholarship**

Funded through the ATIA Ketchikan Chapter (renewable for up to four years) for students pursuing a degree in tourism or maritime related field.

Awardee:       Jordan Kesler, Anchorage, AK - \$2,500

#### **White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad Scholarship**

Funded through the support of White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad.

Awardee:       Ashlyn Dorn, Wasilla, AK - \$2,500

#### **Premier Alaska Tours Scholarship**

Funded through the support of Premier Alaska Tours.

Awardees:       Ellie Wells, Anchorage, AK - \$1,500  
                  Shilo Cederberg, Anchorage, AK - \$500  
                  Claire Arend, Anchorage, AK - \$500

#### **Alaska Collection by Pursuit Scholarship**

Funded through the support of the Alaska Collection by Pursuit.

Awardee:       Oceana Gamel Howes, Anchorage, AK - \$1,600

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

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### **All Alaska Tours Scholarship**

For students pursuing education in Business Administration. The successful candidate is eligible for a paid internship for 10 to 12 weeks during the period May-August.

Awardee: Leah Ricks, Anchorage, AK - \$1,500

### **Alaska Airlines Scholarship**

Funded through the support of Alaska Airlines.

Awardee: Emma Axelson, Ketchikan, AK - \$1,000

### **Chuck West Memorial Scholarship**

Funded through an endowment in memory of Chuck West, founder of Westours and Cruise West and considered by many to be the founder of Alaska tourism.

Awardee: Kierra Murphy, Kodiak, AK - \$1,000

### **Alaska Railroad Corporation Scholarship**

Funded through the support of the Alaska Railroad.

Awardee: Eliza Oldham, Eagle River, AK - \$1,000

### **ATIA Anchorage Chapter Scholarship**

Funded through donations raised by the ATIA Anchorage Chapter.

Awardees: Leah Ricks, Anchorage, AK - \$1,000

Lawrence Wynn, Eagle River, AK - \$1,000

### **ATIA One-Year Scholarship**

Funded through ATIA member pledges.

Awardees: Brittany Slick, Ketchikan, AK - \$1,000

Michelle Eliassen, Chugiak, AK - \$1,000

Emma Axelson, Ketchikan, AK - \$1,000

Sage Dudick, Anchorage, AK - \$600

Bernadette Franulovich, Ketchikan, AK - \$600

Abigail Smothers, Talkeetna, AK - \$600

Ellie Wells, Anchorage, AK - \$600

### **Tim McDonnell Mentorship Scholarship**

Funded through the support of Alaska Coach Tours. Tim McDonnell is the former vice president of Alaska operations for Princess and Holland America Lines.

Awardee: Kierra Murphy, Kodiak, AK - \$500

ATIA Foundation scholarship recipients must be enrolled or intend to enroll in a program of study in preparation for a career in tourism. The ATIA Foundation has awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars since 2001 to more than 150 individuals, with individual scholarships generally ranging from \$500 to \$2,500. Funds are raised from members during ATIA's annual convention and through business sponsorships.

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

The Alaska Travel Industry Association is Alaska's largest statewide membership trade association for the travel industry and represents nearly 600 members and businesses supporting Alaska tourism. The ATIA Foundation invests in Alaskans to ensure the quality of people employed in Alaska's visitor industry. ATIA promotes Alaska's travel industry as one of the state's major economic forces and advocates for the growth of the industry while remaining attentive to Alaska's natural environment, diverse cultures, and unique quality of life.

For more information, visit [www.AlaskaTIA.org](http://www.AlaskaTIA.org) or contact 907.646.3306.

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