



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alaska Travel Industry Association Foundation Announces Scholarship Recipients

Anchorage, AK – The Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA) Foundation announced \$37,500 in scholarship awards to 16 outstanding recipients from across the state.

The Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA) Foundation's mission is to assist Alaskans desiring to further their education in the travel industry. As a non-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization, the Foundation supports programs that educate and enhance the quality of Alaska's visitor industry, educates the general public regarding tourism, and invests in Alaskans to ensure the quality of people employed in Alaska's visitor industry through scholarships and support for community events. Funds are raised through annual events and donations from supporting individuals. These competitive, one-year awards recognize students who have a passion to succeed in fields related to the travel industry.

The ATIA Foundation thanks all of the named donors and ATIA members who support this annual program.

A Taste of Alaska Scholarship

Eden Alioto, Kenai, \$2,000

Alaska Airlines Scholarship

Aaron Johnson, Anchorage, \$1,000
Briella Herron, Bethel, \$1,000
Tyler Horning, Wasilla, \$1,000

**Alaska Helicopter Tours
Scholarship**

Asher Ragsdale, Wasilla, \$2,000

Alaska Railroad Scholarship

Reid Williams, Cantwell, \$1,000

ATIA 1-Year Scholarship

Danika Hamm, Denali, \$1,000
Alexis Cramer, Chugiak, \$1,000

ATIA Rural Scholarship

William Post, Nightmute, \$1,000

Chuck West Memorial Scholarship

Aaron Johnson, Anchorage, \$1,000

Explore Fairbanks Scholarship

Selwyn Wessel, Fairbanks, \$4,000

Holland America Line Scholarship

Kenneth Larson, Healy, \$2,500

**Kris Geldaker Memorial
Scholarship**

Reid Williams, Cantwell, \$2,500

Lazy Otter Scholarship

Jackson Harmon, Sitka, \$1,000

Premier Alaska Tours Scholarship

Ella Strong, Eagle River, \$2,500

**Pursuit – Alaska Collection
Scholarship**

Teagan Halsey, Anchorage, \$2,500

Royal Caribbean Line Scholarship

Jackson Harmon, Sitka, \$5,000

**Tania Hancock Memorial
Scholarship**

Kenneth Larson, Healy, \$1,500
Reid Williams, Cantwell, \$1,500
Kael Erikson, Unalakleet, \$1,500

**Tim McDonnell Mentorship
Scholarship**

Cooper Mas, Ketchikan, \$1,000

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

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“Investing in our students is key to the continued success and growth of Alaska’s tourism industry,” said Kory Eberhart, Chair of the ATIA Foundation Board. “We’re proud to support these talented young Alaskans and eager to see them become the next leaders in tourism.”

“We are proud to invest in the next generation of leaders shaping Alaska’s tourism industry,” said Jillian Simpson, President and CEO of ATIA. “Their drive and passion reflect the strength of our state’s future, and we believe they will play a vital role in advancing and sustaining Alaska’s tourism economy.”

The Alaska Travel Industry Association (www.alaskatia.org) is Alaska’s largest statewide membership trade association for the travel industry and represents more than 600 members and businesses supporting Alaska tourism. 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.

The Alaska Travel Industry Foundation (<https://www.alaskatia.org/about/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 scholarships to more than 180 individuals. Funds are raised from members during ATIA’s annual convention and through business sponsorships.

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