



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 3, 2026

Contact:

Alaska Travel Industry Association
jsamuels@alaskatia.org
(907) 382-0099

Alaska Travel Industry Association Foundation Announces Scholarship Recipients

Anchorage, AK – The Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA) Foundation announced \$46,500 in scholarship awards to 15 outstanding recipients from across the state.

The mission of the Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA) Foundation is to support Alaskans who wish to advance 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.

“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.

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

4000 Old Seward Hwy, Ste 102
Anchorage, AK 99503
O 907.929.2842
F 907.561.5727
AlaskaTIA.org

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

A Taste of Alaska Scholarship

Lennon Jennigs, Skagway, \$2,000

Alaska Airlines Scholarship

Claira Booz, Homer, \$1,000

Luke Hansen, Redmond, \$1,000

Ben Plucinski, Eagle River, \$1,000

Alaska Railroad Scholarship

Joana Romero Cupul, Fairbanks, \$1,000

ATIA 1-Year Scholarship

Luke Hansen, Redmond, \$2,500

Sager Tatum, Skagway, \$2,500

ATIA Rural Scholarship

Davin Hamby, Thorne Bay, \$2,500

Reid Williams, Cantwell, \$2,500

Chuck West Memorial Scholarship

Gideon Bedingfield, Trapper Creek, \$1,000

Explore Fairbanks Scholarship

Odin Peter Raboff, Fairbanks, \$3,000

Holland America Line Scholarship

Angela Bahna, Sitka, \$1,500

Natalee Bertagnoli, Pterensburg \$1,500

Joana Romero Cupul, Fairbanks, \$1,000

Reid Williams, Cantwell, \$1,000

Kris Geldaker Memorial Scholarship

Sager Tatum, Skagway, \$2,500

Lazy Otter Scholarship

Otto Nipp, Seward, \$1,000

Premier Alaska Tours Scholarship

Otto Nipp, Seward, \$1,000

Pursuit Scholarship

Reid Williams, Cantwell, \$1,000

Royal Caribbean Line Scholarship

Claira Booz, Homer, \$1,000

Joana Romero Cupul, Fairbanks, \$1,500

Jillian Singleton, Anchorage, \$2,500

Salmon Berry Tours Scholarship

Mia Turner, Sitka, \$500

Tania Hancock Memorial Scholarship

Angela Bahna, Sitka, \$2,000

Lennon Jennings, Skagway, \$2,000

Jillian Singleton, Anchorage, \$2,000

Mercy Kuria, Anchorage, \$500

Tim McDonnell Mentorship Scholarship

Angela Bahna, Sitka, \$1,000

UA Tourism Partners Scholarship

Ben Plucinski, Eagle River, \$1,000