



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT:** Sarah Leonard, President & CEO  
Alaska Travel Industry Association  
Tel: 907.646.3306  
Email: [sleonard@alaskatia.org](mailto:sleonard@alaskatia.org)

## **Alaska Travel Industry Association Foundation Announces Scholarship Recipients**

*\$19,000 Awarded to Students Across Alaska*

**Anchorage, AK** – The Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA) Foundation announced \$19,000 in scholarship awards to 10 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. We look forward to their participation in our industry.”

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

### **A Taste of Alaska Lodge Scholarship**

Dylan Bender, Eagle River, \$1,000

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

Chloe Manderson, Anchorage, \$1,250

Laura Geissinger, Wasilla, \$1,250

### **Alaska Railroad Corporation Scholarship**

Lucy Hankins, Seward, \$1,000

### **Alaska Society of Outdoor Nature Photographers Scholarship**

Rafael Bitanga, Kodiak, \$1,000

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

Chloe Manderson, Anchorage, \$1,500

### **ATIA Anchorage Chapter Scholarship**

Dylan Bender, Eagle River, \$2,000

**Chuck West Memorial Scholarship**, funded through an endowment established in memory of Chuck West, founder of Westours and Cruise West.  
Meg Smedley, Eagle River, \$1,000

**CLIA Alaska Scholarship**  
Rafael Bitanga, Kodiak, \$1,000

**Holland America Line Scholarship**  
Jenessa Lorenz, Whittier, \$1,500  
Linnaea Gossard, Cooper Landing, \$1,000

**Kris Geldaker Memorial Scholarship**, awarded in memory of Kris Geldaker to students pursuing a tourism or maritime-related degree.  
Laura Geissinger, Wasilla, \$2,500

**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.  
Oceana Howes, Anchorage, \$1,000

**Tania Hancock Memorial Scholarship**  
Christi Cruickshank, Fairbanks, \$2,000

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 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 ([www.Alaskatia.org](http://www.Alaskatia.org)) is Alaska's leading 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.

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

610 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Ste. 200  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
O 907.929.2842  
F 907.561.5727  
[AlaskaTIA.org](http://AlaskaTIA.org)