SAMSUNG
AMERICAN LEGION
SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM

ANNUAL REPORT

2014
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Mission Statement

To carry out the wishes of the Samsung Group at the time the scholarship endowment was given. Establish a set of eligibility rules for participants. Determine the number and value of scholarships to be awarded. Select the most qualified applicants. To investigate and discuss the possible expansion of the program. Establish guidelines for participation in an expanded program and work for the continued success of a generous benefactor’s gift.

Introduction

In Washington, DC on July 26, 1995, Mr. K.S. Park, Chairman, Samsung Engineering & Construction Co. and William M. Detweiler, National Commander, The American Legion held a news conference to announce a 5 million dollar scholarship endowment to be administered by The American Legion.

In announcing the scholarship endowment Mr. Park said, “Samsung appreciates the sacrifices of U.S. service men and women who helped maintain the security of the Korean peninsula during the Korean War.

“We (Samsung) wanted to demonstrate our appreciation. The best way to do this, we believe, is to offer educational opportunities to the children and grandchildren of the American veterans who served their country so honorably. The American Legion is the perfect organization for accomplishing this.

“Samsung values education. One of the most important contributions we can make is to support students in their pursuits of academic excellence. Helping future generations achieve their scholastic goals is a priority for us.

“We hope that this scholarship program will make a difference in the lives of American students. We also hope that Americans will accept our gesture as sincere gratitude for their support.

In thanking Samsung for the scholarship endowment William M. Detweiler, National Commander said, “The American Legion is very appreciative of the generous offer by the Samsung Group of five million dollars to endow a scholarship for children of veterans. As the nation’s largest veteran’s organization, we are honored that Samsung has chosen the American Legion to administer this program to further the education of the descendants of American men and women who have served this nation in time of war.

“We are fully aware of the significance of Samsung’s offer coming at this particular time. This is a special week for all of us, as the Korean War Veterans Memorial is officially dedicated on the Mall here in Washington.

“Americans who answered a call to duty in the earliest days of the Cold War, and served under the United Nations banner to enforce its mandate and preserve the security of the Korean Peninsula, are truly deserving of this long awaited and deserved recognition of their role in what has become known as The Forgotten War.”

“The proud and tenacious people of the Republic of Korea have not forgotten what took place 45 years ago...and they have not forgotten the close alliance the United States has maintained with the Republic of Korea ever since.

“I had the pleasure to make a personal visit to Korea only last December and I was very impressed with what I saw. The state of modern industrialization is awesome. To be associated with one of the leaders of that progress, the Samsung Group, is truly an honor.”

“Samsung values education. One of the most important contributions we can make is to support students in their pursuits of academic excellence. Helping future generations achieve their scholastic goals is a priority for us.”

Mr. K.S. Park, Chairman, Samsung Engineering & Construction Co.
Program Overview

"The Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program" established a series of scholarships, as set forth below for undergraduate study at an accredited United States college or university. The recipients of these scholarships will be known as “Samsung American Legion Scholars”.

The principal amount of the Fund shall not be used for the scholarships. Instead, only the interest and other income of the Fund shall be used for these purposes.

Through its existing structures at the local, state and national levels, The American Legion accepted the responsibility for the selection of scholarship winners and administration of the endowment including development and implementation of a plan to publicize the scholarship program.

A committee consisting of representatives of The American Legion, Samsung, and The American Legion Auxiliary developed a plan for the selection process and eligibility criteria for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program.

The student must be a descendant of a U.S. veteran who served honorably during one or more of the wartime periods listed previously. Descendant is defined as, “direct lineage i.e. child, grandchild, great-grandchild, etc., and legally adopted children.”

The student must attend an accredited U.S. college or university. The scholarship is for undergraduate study and may be used for: tuition, books, fees (normal and customary), and room and board (university housing or its equivalent).

In 2014, applications were distributed to eligible participants in The American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State programs.

Each American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program selects one applicant to represent that program and that applicant becomes one of 98 “state finalists” competing for the scholarships available.

From this pool of 98 “state finalists” the National Selection Committee selects scholarship recipients (the exact number per year is determined from the income generated by the Fund). These scholarship recipients are known as “Samsung American Legion Scholars”.

During 2014, Resolution No. 1, NEC, Fall, 1995 was the governing resolution. The following resolution will go into effect for the 2015 award year. It follows on page 5 for your reference.

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”
Benjamin Franklin
Program Rules and Conditions
Resolution No. 24, NEC, Fall, 2014

REVISED RULES AND CONDITIONS FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE SAMSUNG AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

WHEREAS, In 1995 The American Legion was honored to receive a $5 million scholarship endowment from Samsung Group as a gesture of appreciation for the sacrifices of U.S. service men and women who helped maintain security of the Korean peninsula during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, Res. No. 1 of the National Executive Committee, September 3, 1995, titled “Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program” authorized The American Legion to create a scholarship program by the same name; and

WHEREAS, Res. No. 28 of the National Executive Committee, October 18-19, 2000, titled “Rules and Conditions for Administration of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program” established criteria for awarding the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program from an applicant pool of representatives from The American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State programs; and

WHEREAS, Res. No. 19, National Executive Committee, October 9-10, 2002, incorporated changes in eligibility criteria for students from Hawaii as recommended by the National Committee on Education with subsequent concurrence by the National Americanism Commission; and

WHEREAS, In 2013 The American Legion was pleased to honor its longstanding relationship with Samsung through presentation of its prestigious Patriot Award, followed by a visit to Samsung Global Headquarters in Seoul, Korea, by the National Commander; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion and Samsung Electronics located at the North America Headquarters in Ridgefield Park, New Jersey, have reinvigorated discussions of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program to enhance the application process for benefit of the applicants, and publicly promote and elevate prominence of the Samsung American Legion Scholars; and

WHEREAS, Changes to the Rules and Conditions under which Samsung American Legion scholarships are awarded is recommended by the Committee on Youth Education with subsequent concurrence by the National Americanism Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That effective in 2015 the Rules and Conditions under which Samsung American Legion Scholarships are awarded shall be:

1. As previously established, one representative from each American Legion Boys State program, one representative from each American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program and one high school junior boy and one high school junior girl from the Department of Hawaii will comprise the pool of “Samsung American Legion State Finalists”,

5
2. The pool of Samsung American Legion State Finalists will be divided into five (5) geographic regions:

- **Western Region:** Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington
- **Midwest Region:** Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming
- **Central Region:** Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- **Southeast Region:** Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas
- **Northeast Region:** Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont

3. Two (2) “Samsung American Legion Scholars” will be selected by the Committee on Youth Education from each regional pool of State Finalists; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all other Rules and Conditions regarding eligibility and administration of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program shall remain unchanged:

1. Those eligible to apply for the scholarships shall be students who are direct descendants of U.S. wartime veterans who served during one or more of the periods of war officially designated as such by the United States government:
   - **World War I** April 6, 1917 - November 11, 1918
   - **World War II** December 7, 1941 - December 31, 1946
   - **Korean War** June 25, 1950 - January 31, 1955
   - **Vietnam War** February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975
   - **Lebanon and Grenada** August 24, 1982 - July 31, 1984
   - **Panama** December 20, 1989 - January 31, 1990
   - **Gulf War/War on Terrorism** August 2, 1990 to cessation of hostilities as determined by the United States government,

2. Samsung American Legion Scholars will have six (6) years to utilize their scholarship funds from the date of graduation from high school, excluding any time spent on active military duty or church mission,

3. Samsung American Legion State Finalists will have two (2) years to utilize their scholarship funds from the date of graduation from high school, excluding any time spent on active military duty or church mission,

4. The Samsung American Legion Scholarship is for undergraduate study at an accredited U.S. college or university,

5. Scholarship recipients must be enrolled as a full-time student to request his/her scholarship funds,

6. The number and amount of the scholarship awards will be determined by the income
derived from the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Trust,

7. The scholarship funds may only be used to defray necessary costs of the student’s education (i.e. tuition, room & board, books & supplies, fees and equipment required by the student’s particular course of study or school),

8. A student may request any amount up to and including his/her total scholarship award at one time,

9. The amount of the fund request cannot exceed the cost of education,

10. Students may make only one (1) request for funds per semester or quarter,

11. Scholarship checks will be issued upon receipt of a “Request for Funds” form,

12. A scholarship check will be issued in the normal and customary procedure of a two-party check made payable to the student and school,

13. Students who have not requested their award will receive one (1) written notice reminding them of their award and the time limits remaining to receive their award,

14. State finalists will receive their notice prior to their last year of eligibility,

15. Samsung American Legion Scholars will receive their notice with two years of eligibility remaining,

16. Unused scholarship funds will be returned to the scholarship trust fund for future awards; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all Rules and Conditions shall be included on each Samsung American Legion Scholarship application; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 19 of the National Executive Committee, October 9–10, 2002, titled “Rules and Conditions for Administration of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program” is hereby superseded and rescinded.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>AWARDS</th>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Indiana, Wyoming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Alabama, North Dakota, Nevada, Ohio, South Dakota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Colorado, Kansas, Massachusetts, Montana, Oregon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Arizona, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Minnesota, North Dakota, Utah, Virginia</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Alabama, Alaska, Utah</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Arizona, Illinois, Minnesota, Utah</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Florida, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, Utah</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
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<td>Colorado, Louisiana, Michigan, Nebraska, South Carolina</td>
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<tr>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>6</td>
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### Girls State—Scholarship Distribution by Department

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<th>AWARDS</th>
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<tr>
<td>1997</td>
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<td>Kentucky, Nevada, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Wisconsin</td>
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<tr>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Alabama, Arizona, Connecticut, Iowa, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Alabama, California, West Virginia</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Illinois, Indiana</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Alabama, Montana, Ohio, Virginia</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Kansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Utah</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Idaho, Indiana, Maryland, Washington</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
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<td>Maryland, Pennsylvania, South Carolina</td>
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<td>2006</td>
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<td>Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, New Jersey, Texas</td>
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<td>2007</td>
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<td>Minnesota, Missouri</td>
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<td>2008</td>
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<td>Arizona, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Colorado, Indiana, Montana, Oregon</td>
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<td>Delaware, Louisiana, New York, Wisconsin</td>
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<td>2011</td>
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<td>Iowa, North Dakota, Utah, West Virginia</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>California, Georgia, Minnesota, Virginia</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
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<td>Louisiana, Nebraska</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota</td>
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**Program Awards**

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<th>Award Year</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>1997</td>
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<td>1998</td>
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<td>2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>$232,000</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>$231,000</td>
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<td>2004</td>
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<td>2005</td>
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<td>2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$288,000</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>$306,000</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>$307,000</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>$288,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$277,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$276,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$277,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$277,900*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,216,000</strong></td>
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- Total Awarded $5,216,000
- Total Distributed $4,540,291
- Total Obligation Remaining $658,402

* = 9 / $20,000 scholarships and 89 / $1,100 scholarships

**Program Expenses**

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Postage and Shipping</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper and Printing</td>
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<td>Supplies</td>
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<td>Awards</td>
<td>$1890</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,175</strong></td>
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Overall program expenses decreased by approximately $800 from 2013

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**Dr. Rachel Forbes, MD, MBA**

An original recipient of the scholarship in 1996, Dr. Forbes continues to excel. Currently, she works as a kidney and pancreas transplant surgeon at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, where she is also an assistant professor.

Dr. Forbes continues to credit The American Legion with giving her the lift she needed to receive a top-quality education.
Samsung American Legion Scholars

The Samsung American Legion Scholarship National Selection Committee met in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 11, 2014, and named nine students as the newest Samsung American Legion Scholars.

Heidi Bau

Hometown: Slayton, Minnesota

GPA: 4.0 / Class Rank: 2nd

Academics / Activities: Volleyball, Drama, Knowledge Bowl, Speech, Track, Band, Choir, Cheerleading, National Honor Society, National Math Bee Champion, VFW Auxiliary Patriotism Winner

Community Service: D.A.R.E. role model, Salvation Army bell ringer, Locks of Love hair donor, Student Council service projects, Church youth group, 4-H, Girl Scouts

Future Goal: M.D. specializing in geriatrics or children with special needs

Heidi’s grandfather is a Korean War veteran.

Samantha Goerger

Hometown: Wyndmere, North Dakota

GPA: 4.0 / Class Rank: 1st

Academics / Activities: Volleyball, Band/Choir, FFA, Peer counselor, Cheerleader, National Honor Society, Speech, Student Council, Joyce Ivy Scholar, Violet Richardson Award, Rotary Youth Leadership Award

Community Service: First responder (ambulance), Language assistance, Church youth group, STLF Pay It Forward, Teen center revitalization leader

Future Goal: Linguist and Cultural Studies specialist

Kim’s grandfather is a Korean War veteran.
Sean Greiner

Hometown: Bluffton, South Carolina

GPA: 4.0 / Class Rank: 1st

Academics / Activities: SC Science Olympiad—1st place Forensics, SC Youth in Government, Model United Nations, National Honor Society, Student Council, Tennis, DECA, Mock Trial

Community Service: BSA—Life Scout, Knights of Columbus, Wheelchair and Rally for the Cure Volunteer, Red Cross Blood Donor, ESOL/SAT Tutor, Various grounds cleanup groups, Altar Server of the Year, Di Seggie True Grit Award

Future Goal: Pharmaceutical development within medical research

Sean’s grandfather is a World War II veteran.

Matthew Hanisch

Hometown: Tulsa, Oklahoma

GPA: 4.0 / Class Rank: Top 1%

Academics / Activities: Brother Bernadine Scholars program, Student Council, National Honor Society, Church youth group, Latin Club founder, Tennis Instructor

Community Service: Lector / Usher at Mass, Christian service to Appalachia and Navajo nations, Madonna House volunteer, Teen Team summer reading volunteer, Religious educator of children at home church

Future Goal: Filmmaking—possible documentarian

Matthew’s grandfather is a Korean war veteran.
Kyle Kozlowski

Hometown: Washington, Pennsylvania

GPA: 4.75 / Class Rank: 1st

Academics / Activities: Cadet Major-JROTC, Pulsar Search student mentor, Volleyball, Science Olympiad, AP Scholar with Distinction, US Achievement Academy National Mathematics Award

Community Service: Junior Service volunteer at local hospital, Summer Reading club for kids—lead volunteer, Historical society volunteer

Future Goal: Nuclear Officer—United States Navy

Kyle’s grandfather is a World War II and Korean War veteran.

Jonathan Mullen

Hometown: Andover, Minnesota

GPA: 4.09 / Class Rank: 23rd

Academics / Activities: Academic Letter (x3), Band Letter (x2), Soccer Letter, AMC Math Competition-Top team member, Order of the Arrow Ordeal member

Community Service: BSA-Eagle Scout, Community garden/landscaping, Youth and children volunteer with home church, NHS Feed My Starving Children volunteer

Future Goal: Robotics / Artificial Intelligence Engineering

Jonathan’s grandfather is a Korean War veteran.
**Colter Norick**

Hometown: Columbia Falls, Montana

GPA: 4.2 / Class Rank: 1st

Academics / Activities: Speech and Debate state champion, ISEF qualifier, Mu Alpha Theta Award, Model UN-Distinguished Delegate and Paper, Student Council, Golf, Band, Community swim team

Community Service: Children’s church theatre leader, 4H community projects, NHS veteran’s volunteer, Community Kitchen volunteer, Rotary youth leadership

Future Goal: Doctorate in Computational Biology starting with research and moving into a professorate

Colter is the descendant of veterans from World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War.

**Mason Pearcy**

Hometown: Slidell, Louisiana

GPA: 4.6 / Class Rank: 1st

Academics / Activities: Student Council, History club-President, Foreign language club-Co-president, Cross-country-Captain, Swim-Captain, Dance Team manager, School mascot, Community swim team (x2)

Community Service: Altar server/Youth usher, Pro-life volunteer, Special Olympics escort, Youth retreat team leader

Future Goal: MBA-Business/Marketing with a focus in executive management

Mason’s grandfather is a Korean War veteran.
Delaney Tevis
Hometown: Columbia, MO

GPA: 4.0 / Class Rank: 1st

Academics / Activities: National Spanish exam Gold/Silver awards, Band, Quiz Bowl member, Philosophy club-President, Future Doctor’s of America-Founding Member

Community Service: GSA-Silver Award, Food bank volunteer, Humane society volunteer, Rock Bridge Reaches Out-Founder, The Intersection/Boys and Girls Club volunteer

Future Goal: M.D. working with the World Health Organization

Delaney’s grandfather is a Korean War veteran.

Comments from some of this year’s recipients

Thank you so much! I am deeply honored that the American Legion has chosen to recognize me. I look forward to meeting all of the scholars! Also, thank you for all that the American Legion does for this country. You are an incredible group of people who are simply trying to create a better future. Again, thank you.

Sincerely,
Sean Greiner

Thank you so much for awarding me [the] Samsung American Legion Scholarship. I can hardly believe it. I finally feel like going to college can be a reality for me next fall. Once again, thank you all.

Sincerely,
Colter Norick

I can’t tell you how honored I am to receive this scholarship. I was so excited when I read your email that everything felt surreal. Your message overwhelmed me, my family, and my friends with happiness and gratitude. I want to thank you and the American Legion for this incredible opportunity.

Thanks,
Matt Hanisch
Comments from previous scholarship recipients

I have just finished my first semester as a Biochemistry major at Texas A&M University, and I can say without a doubt that these last few months have been some of the most exciting, fun-filled times in my life. I know that if I had not been chosen as a 2013 Samsung American Legion Scholar, I would not have had these wonderful times...

During this semester, I had the opportunity to join several organizations, most notably Memorial Student Center Freshmen in Service and Housing [MSC FISH]... Through my involvement at MSC FISH, I have had the opportunity to plan and execute several service projects to raise awareness for causes such as multiple sclerosis and cancer... I joined an undergraduate research team through the DeBakey Undergraduate Research Program. As a member of this research team, I have been involved in efforts to model renal fluid dynamics, placing an emphasis on the role of the lymphatic system in kidney function...

I hope to continue my involvement in my school community... One opportunity that I am looking forward to is my participation in a service learning trip to Costa Rica during the upcoming spring break... Until then, I look forward to continuing my involvement in research and MSC FISH as I enter this next semester; I am so incredibly excited about what the future holds!

Thank you,

Gabrielle Lessen (2013)

I am about to enter my final semester at the University of Notre Dame. It’s hard to believe it’s been four years since I was chosen as a 2010 Samsung American Legion Scholar... It is a bittersweet experience, slowly saying goodbye to the place I have come to call home, but it has been a fantastic journey. I am so grateful to have had the opportunities that I have had, and to have been able to attend such a wonderful school...

This semester, I was design editor for Scholastic—the Notre Dame student produced magazine—once again... In addition, I will be completing my senior thesis. In my thesis, I am exploring Dante’s Divine Comedy and how the poet utilizes the art of memory to create an immersive, sensory experience with his words, and thus creates a memorable cultural experience for his readers to become a part of...

Outside the classroom, I continue to participate in activities such as Swing Dance Club and the graphic design organization AIGA. I have started assisting with swing dance lessons at The Music Village, a nonprofit organization in the downtown South Bend community that encourages music and dance in society, and I absolutely love the work we do within the community. Beginning to look at my plans following graduation, I will be participating as a master mentor in the Notre Dame Vision summer program for high school students.

Thank you,

Samantha Lessen (2010)
Thank you so much for blessing me with a Samsung National Scholar Award [sic]. It was very helpful for me in attending Harvard College in Cambridge, MA where I had a great first semester. I greatly appreciate your support of my education as do my parents and my grandfather, Vic Scalise, who served as an officer in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War.

**Gregory John Scalise** (2013)

Hello, I just wanted to update the organization a bit... I was a 1999 Samsung Scholarship winner. I went on to earn my bachelor’s in education from SMSU in Marshall, MN. I have spent eight years teaching ESL/EL in Willmar, MN. During my amazing time there, I also earned my Master’s in ESL from Hamline University. I have had the privilege to teach an adjunct position for SMSU as well. The best highlight of the past decade, however, has been the birth of our twins on Feb. 5, 2014. My husband and I are so blessed to have Savannah Faith & Jameson Bradley in our lives. We are also in the process of moving to North Dakota. May God’s love shine on you and your families.

Thank you,

**Crystal DeVore** (2009)

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**For Additional Information**

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“Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation.”

President John F. Kennedy, 35th President of The United States of America