

**SAMSUNG**



**Samsung  
American Legion  
Scholarship**

and

**Samsung American  
Legion Alumni  
Association**

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

[legion.org/scholarships/samsung](https://legion.org/scholarships/samsung)

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of the Treasury policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination write to the Director, Office of Civil Rights and Diversity, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20220. The Department of Treasury is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# Table of Contents

Mission Statement ..... 3

Introduction..... 3

Program Overview..... 4

Program Rules and Conditions ..... 6-10

Program Award History ..... 11

Awards Suspended for 2020 ..... 12

Samsung American Legion  
Alumni Association ..... 13



# Mission Statement

The American Legion ensures the overall purpose of Samsung's scholarship endowment is fulfilled, which is providing direct descendants of veterans who honorably served their country with higher learning opportunities. This is accomplished by reviewing and maintaining eligibility rules for participants; determining the number and value of scholarships to be awarded; selecting the most qualified applicants as Department Finalists and National Scholars; investigating and discussing possible expansion of the program; and establishing guidelines for participation in one such expansion, which is the Samsung American Legion Alumni Association.

# Introduction

On July 26, 1995, the Samsung Group and The American Legion held a joint press conference in Washington, D.C., to announce Samsung's endowment of a \$5 million educational scholarship fund to The American Legion for administration to direct descendants of U.S. war veterans. It was a gesture of appreciation from Samsung to U.S. military veterans for coming to the aid of South Korea in its war against invading forces from China and North Korea.

Mr. K.S. Park, then-chairman of Samsung Engineering & Construction Co., words from that day remain a source of great pride to The American Legion.

"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."

At the press conference, then-American Legion National Commander William M. Detweiler, thanked Samsung for their generous endowment. In part, Detweiler stated, "We are fully aware of the significance of Samsung's offer ... 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 (Korean War Veterans Memorial) in what has become known as "The Forgotten War."



## Program Overview

The Samsung American Legion Scholarship issues awards only from interest and other income to the fund. The principal amount of the fund is not used for the scholarships.

Through its existing organizational structure, The American Legion administers the endowment fund and scholarship program at the local, state and national levels. This includes – but is not limited to – selection of scholarship awardees, development and implementation of program organization, and marketing strategy for the program.

Since inception of the scholarship, the Americanism Commission of The American Legion has invited a representative of Samsung to aid its Committee on Youth Education (COYE) in selection of the National Scholars. The COYE consists of members of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary. In addition to selecting the National Scholars, the Americanism Commission's COYE is responsible for developing and maintaining a plan for the scholarship program's selection process and eligibility criteria. The commission announced the first Samsung American Legion National Scholars in September 1996.

*“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, then-chairman of Samsung Engineering & Construction Co.*

## Eligible applicants must meet the following criteria:

Those eligible to apply for a Samsung American Legion Scholarship shall be students who are direct descendant<sup>1</sup> of a U.S. wartime veteran of the following war periods:

- April 6, 1917 – November 11, 1918; or
- December 7, 1941 – Until such time as determined by the federal government

Attend an American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program.

Be between junior and senior years of high school.

Complete the online application process including upload of all supporting documentation prior to 11:59 p.m. at the close of the first day of their respective Boys State or Girls State program.

## To be considered as a National Scholar the applicant must:

Have been selected as the finalist from their respective Boys State or Girls State program.<sup>2</sup>

Have been selected as a Samsung American Legion National Scholar by members of the Committee on Youth Education at The American Legion's annual Fall Meetings, conducted every October.



1) Direct descendant is defined as the applicant being the legal child, grandchild, great grandchild, etc., or a legally adopted child of a qualified wartime veteran.

2) 100 to 102 department finalists are named each year (two from each state: one from each Boys State and one from each Girls State). Hawaii has historically been given the opportunity to nominate two young people (male and female), by virtue of not having a Boys State or Girls State program. However, in 2016, Hawaii began its Girls State program.

## Program Rules and Conditions

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
MAY 8-9, 2019  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

**Resolution No. 28: Updated Rules and Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program**

**Origin: Committee on Youth Education**

**Submitted by: Americanism Commission**

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, Resolution 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, Resolution 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, Resolution 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, Revision to the rules and conditions under which Samsung American Legion scholarships were awarded which reflected implementation of dividing the pool of Samsung American Legion State Finalists into regions was contained in Resolution. No. 24 of the National Executive Committee in October 2014; and

WHEREAS, The recent addition of a formal American Legion Boys State program of the Department of District of Columbia and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program of the Department of Hawaii requires another update to the rules and conditions under which Samsung American Legion scholarships are awarded; and

WHEREAS, The rules and conditions under which Samsung American Legion scholarships are awarded are recommended by the Committee on Youth Education with subsequent concurrence by the Americanism Commission; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That the Rules and Conditions under which Samsung American Legion Scholarships are awarded is hereby updated to include the**

American Legion Boys State program of the Department of District of Columbia and the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program of the Department of Hawaii; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all other Rules and Conditions under which Samsung American Legion Scholarships are awarded shall remain the same; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Rules and Conditions under which Samsung American Legion Scholarships are awarded shall now read in its entirety as follows:

1. 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 from the Department of Hawaii will comprise the pool of “Samsung American Legion State Finalists”
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, District of Columbia
3. Two (2) “Samsung American Legion Scholars” will be selected by the Committee on Youth Education from each regional pool of State Finalists
4. 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
5. 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
6. 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
7. The Samsung American Legion Scholarship is for undergraduate study at an accredited U.S. college or university

8. Scholarship recipients must be enrolled as a full-time student to request his/her scholarship funds
9. The number and amount of the scholarship awards will be determined by the income derived from the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Trust
10. 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)
11. A student may request any amount up to and including his/her total scholarship award at one time
12. The amount of the fund request cannot exceed the cost of education
13. Students may make only one (1) request for funds per semester or quarter
14. Scholarship checks will be issued upon receipt of a "Request for Funds" form
15. A scholarship check will be issued in the normal and customary procedure of a two-party check made payable to the student and school
16. 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
17. State finalists will receive their notice prior to their last year of eligibility
18. Samsung American Legion Scholars will receive their notice with two years of eligibility remaining
19. 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. 24 of the National Executive Committee, October 15-16, 2014, titled "Revised Rules and Conditions for Administration of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program" is hereby superseded and rescinded.**

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
OCTOBER 16-17, 2019  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA**

**Resolution No. 9: Updated Eligibility For Samsung American Legion Scholarships**

**Origin: Committee On Youth Education**

**Submitted by: Americanism Commission**

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, Those eligible to apply for the scholarships have been defined as 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; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 116-35 titled “Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act” was signed into law on July 30, 2019, thereby recognizing two major war eras – that of April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918, and December 7, 1941 to a time later determined by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, Enacting Public Law 116-45 declares that the United States has been in a state of war since Dec. 7, 1941, thereby recognizing U.S. servicemembers who served during previously undeclared periods of war; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2019, That Resolution No. 28 of the National Executive Committee, May 2019, titled “Updated Rules and Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program” be amended so as to remove reference to specific war era dates within the third resolved clause, item 4, and revised to instead read, “Those eligible to apply for a Samsung American Legion Scholarship shall be students who are direct descendants of U.S. wartime veterans of the following war periods:**

- April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918, or
- December 7, 1941 until a time as determined by the federal government”; and, be it finally

**RESOLVED, That all other rules and conditions reflected in Resolution No. 28 of the National Executive Committee, May 2019, titled “Updated Rules and Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program” are unaffected and shall remain the same.**

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
OCTOBER 14-15, 2020  
VIRTUAL**

**Resolution No. 29: Amendment to Resolution No. 28 - “Updated Rules and Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program”**

**Origin: Committee on Youth Education**

**Submitted by: Americanism Commission**

WHEREAS, The December 2011 change to the federal charter implemented by the U.S. Congress established that The American Legion National Organization may not control or otherwise influence the specific activities and conduct of state or local chapters, thereby giving American Legion departments the ultimate authority for establishing criteria for eligibility, selection, participation, and operation of their own American Legion Boys State program; and

WHEREAS, Being two distinct corporate entities, The American Legion possesses no authority over American Legion Auxiliary Girls State programs; and

WHEREAS, American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State programs therefore possess independent authority to determine the eligibility and selection criteria for students they wish to participate in their respective programs; and

WHEREAS, Samsung American Legion Scholarships are only available to participants of American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State programs; and

WHEREAS, It is responsibility of the Committee on Youth Education to recommend rules and conditions under which Samsung American Legion scholarships are awarded, with subsequent concurrence by the Americanism Commission of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The Committee on Youth Education seeks to clearly establish eligibility to apply for a Samsung American Legion Scholarship; and

WHEREAS, The Americanism and Finance Commissions each have provided their concurrence to this resolution and recommend it to the National Executive Committee for its favorable action; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That sub-paragraph number 1 of the third Resolved clause of Resolution No. 28 of the National Executive Committee, May 2019, titled “Updated Rules and Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program” is amended to:**

**“1. The pool of ‘Samsung American Legion State Finalists’ will be comprised of one student from each American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program who are between their junior and senior years of high school and one student from The American Legion Department of Hawaii who is a young man between his junior and senior years of high school, until such time an American Legion Hawaii Boys State program may be established.”**

# Program Award History

<u>Award Year</u>	<u>Total Awarded</u>
1996	\$242,500
1997	\$310,000
1998	\$328,000
1999	\$326,000
2000	\$233,000
2001	\$230,000
2002	\$232,000
2003	\$231,000
2004	\$229,000
2005	\$230,000
2006	\$325,000
2007	\$288,000
2008	\$306,000
2009	\$307,000
2010	\$288,000
2011	\$277,900
2012	\$276,800
2013	\$277,900
2014	\$277,900
2015	\$275,000
2016	\$266,750
2017	\$248,750
2018	\$247,500
2019	\$247,500
2020	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,501,500</b>
Awards not yet paid as of 12/31/2020	\$343,093

## Fund Balance

as of 12/31/2020                      \$7,428,885

# Samsung American Legion Scholarship Awards Suspended for 2020

Pandemics have affected humanity throughout history, including the most recent COVID-19 pandemic that gripped the world throughout most of 2020. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a global pandemic caused by a novel coronavirus – a new coronavirus strain affected the respiratory system that had not been previously found in people. Adhering to “shelter in place” and other restrictive public health orders, the coronavirus pandemic brought everyday life to a grinding halt, disrupting home and families, workplaces, businesses and nearly every facet of American life.

As a result of the pandemic, The American Legion at all levels grappled with arduous decisions for cancelling many of its youth programs during 2020, including the vast majority of American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State programs across the nation. It is through the Boys State and Girls State programs that participants are afforded eligibility to apply for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship. As a result of many Boys State and Girls State program cancellations, the difficult decision was made to suspend awarding Samsung American Legion Scholarships in 2020. Those students who were awarded previous Samsung Scholarships still had access to any unused funds that they may have needed.

National Americanism Chairman Richard Anderson of The American Legion explained the necessity of the situation perfectly. “These times are unparalleled,” Chairman Anderson said. “And while it’s distressing to think of all those youth across the nation who are disappointed to learn of the cancellation of American Legion programs this year, it would be a much greater tragedy if even just one of those youth were to fall ill during a program. The Americanism Commission feels this is the right thing to do.”

**SAMSUNG**

 **AMERICAN  
LEGION**

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## Program Overview

There have been 2,265 Samsung American Legion Scholarship recipients since inception of the scholarship in 1996. These numbers have not changed from last year due to the cancellation of Boys & Girls State programs in 2020 resulting in no scholarships awarded.

The Samsung American Legion Scholar recognition event conducted during the March 2020 Washington Conference was extremely successful with compliments received by American Legion department leadership and the scholars alike. Given the success of holding the recognition event in conjunction with the Washington Conference, it is recommended to continue with this timing going forward.

The alumni association webpage signup had 218 active members at the end of 2020. The Samsung American Legion Alumni Association (SALAA) has 259 active Facebook participants and 141 have joined the LinkedIn group.

Supporting funds were given to The American Legion through a three-year grant in 2015, followed by an addendum granting additional funds intended to accomplish the alumni associations goals through 2022. This timeline will be adjusted as necessary in light of pandemic restrictions and delays. Those specific goals are:

- Growth of the alumni association membership base to at least 50% of the total scholarship recipients registered to the SALAA web page.
- Robust engagement of 75% of alumni members on social media, in-person or virtual participation in an activity, advocacy or recommendation of the scholarship to a school or local post.
- Increase in overall awareness of the scholarship and the Samsung-American Legion relationship.

A nine-member National Alumni Board of Directors, a four-member Executive Advisory Committee, made up of representatives from the American Legion Family and Samsung, are working together to grow the association and expand activities. They are assisted by an American Legion staff member acting as alumni coordinator.

# Executive Advisory Committee

An Executive Advisory Committee made up of American Legion Family representatives and Samsung representatives was established to aid in the oversight of the alumni association alongside a National Alumni Board of Directors, consisting of scholarship alumni. The Executive Advisory Committee works to ensure that the actions of the alumni association are in keeping with the high traditions of The American Legion and Samsung.



**Debra Albers**

National Education Chairman  
American Legion Auxiliary



**Greg "Doc" Gibbs**

Past National Commander  
Sons of The American Legion



**John Hendrick**

Chief of Staff  
B2B Solutions and Services and Chief Advocate  
Samsung Veterans Community at Samsung Electronics



**Michael Westergren**

Chairman  
National Committee on Youth Education  
The American Legion

# National Alumni Board of Directors

A National Alumni Board of Directors made up of former Samsung American Legion Scholarship recipients was established to aid in the oversight of the alumni association. With oversight from the Executive Advisory Committee, the National Alumni Board of Directors guides the planning and development of the association. The existence of the National Alumni Board of Directors encourages alumni to seek leadership opportunities within the alumni association, while also ensuring that members' voices are heard.

Nine members will serve for three years as outlined in the by-laws of the Samsung American Legion Alumni Association, reviewed in June 2019 and ratified by vote in December 2019.



## **Matthew Barreau**

**1999 National Winner- Southeast Region**

**Cedar Rapids, IA**

Boys State in Oregon

Western Oregon University

Coach for over a decade now at the collegiate level in the sports of track and field and cross country

Conference and Regional Coach of the Year on about 10 occasions.



## **Eric Bucher**

**1997 National Winner- Central Region**

**Miamisburg, OH**

Ohio University- BS in Mechanical Engineering

University of Dayton- Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering

Ohio Buckeye Boys State Volunteer

2017 American Legion National Oratorical Contest Judge

Currently the Chief Flight Systems Engineer for the HC/MC-130J Program, Special Operations Forces & Personnel Recovery Division at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base



## **Scott Divett**

### **2007 State Finalist– Southeast Region**

**Little Rock AFB, AR**

Brigham Young University – B.A. in Linguistics  
USAF C-130J Pilot and T-1A Instructor Pilot  
Certified Military Translator in Italian  
Tactics Officer, 41st Airlift Squadron, Little Rock AFB



## **Jessica Jaeger**

### **2008 National Winner- Central Region**

**Crosse, WI**

University of Wisconsin – La Crosse - BS in Accounting and BS in Economics with a minor in Information Systems  
Attended Sustainability in Economics study abroad trip to New Zealand and Australia  
Employed at RSM US LLP, the 5th largest accounting firm in the United States  
Received 3 promotions in 5 years  
Completed the Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examination



## **Erin Marvin**

### **2006 National Winner- Southeast Region**

**Wichita Falls, TX**

Casper College- Associates in mass communications, political science and agricultural business  
West Texas A&M University - Bachelor's in Mass Communications  
Events Coordinator for Hospice Austin



## **Courtney Lewis Matiaco**

### **2011 State Finalist- Southeast Region**

**Kenai, AK**

Brigham Young University- B.S. in Health Promotion



## **Dr. Zachary Tally, PT, DPT, CLT**

**2010 National Winner- Southeast Region**

**Spartanburg, SC**

Duke University - Doctor of Physical Therapy

University of South Carolina- B.S in Exercise Science

Currently, the first Oncologic Physical Therapy Resident



## **Dr. Krysta Webster Fink**

**1998 National Winner- Southeast Region**

**Blacksburg, VA**

Wofford College

Western Carolina University master's degree in clinical psychology

Oklahoma State University Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology.

Completed pre-doctoral internship at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and post-doctoral residency at James Madison University

Licensed clinical psychologist in Virginia and South Carolina

Working as a psychologist at Virginia Tech conducting individual and group therapy.

## **Samantha Hilger**

**2012 State Finalist- Midwest Region**

**Cambridge, MN**

**SAMSUNG**

 **AMERICAN  
LEGION**

Prepared by:

 **AMERICAN  
LEGION**

Americanism Division

P.O. Box 1055  
Indianapolis, IN 46206  
(317) 630-1203  
americanism@legion.org

 **legion.org**