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FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2022 FAMILY MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The PHS Commissioned Officers Foundation for the Advancement of Public Health (COF) recently provided $16,000 in scholarships to high school seniors, undergraduate, and graduate students who are sponsored by a member of the Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service (COA). Each student’s sponsor is in parentheses. Funding for educational expenses is made possible by generous donations of active duty and retired members, local COA branches, and others.

Scholarship recipients are selected based on their academic performance, school/community activities, honors/awards, and career aspirations. The fifteen awardees for this year are:

- Abigail Post: Exercise Physiology, Marquette University (CAPT Jennifer Post)
- Addison Ault: Exercise Science, Montana State University (CDR Gregory Ault)
- Alexa Mutz: Cell and Molecular Biology, Northeastern State University (CDR Shelo Mutz) *
- Amelia Thoennes: Microbiology and Biotechnology, South Dakota State University (CDR Mary Thoennes)
- Carla Merriweather: Nursing, Howard University (CAPT Shelia Pack Merriweather)
- Carolyn Fenno: Biology, Pierce College Fort Steilacoom (CDR James Fenno)
- Colin McGarry: Biomedical Engineering, Regis College (CDR Mary McGarry)
- Katherine Gora Combs: Epidemiology, University of North Carolina (CAPT Jeffery Combs)
- Landon Lee: Biology, William Jewell College (CAPT Michael Lee)
- Laurel Gibbins: Medical Laboratory Science, University of Cincinnati (CAPT John Gibbins)
- Lily Richardson: English, Arizona State University (CAPT Jeffrey Richardson)
- Miguel Verani: Economics, Washington University (CAPT Jennifer Verani)
- Nam Phuong Pommier: Nutrition and Dietetics, Rowan University (LCDR Ryan Pommier)
- Paige Reed: Biology, University of Maryland (LCDR Jennifer Shepherd)
- Rebecca Cox: Medicine, Emory University (CDR Deborah Cox)

* Alexa Mutz also received the Ronald Lessing Scholarship. Ronald Lessing, DBA, MS, had a lifelong devotion to learning and teaching in science and mathematics. He served as a full-time Public Health Service civilian employee of various agencies within the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and received numerous honors and awards for outstanding performance. A devoted husband and father, Ronald Lessing tragically succumbed to a malignant disease on April 7, 1976, leaving a wife and three young sons. This award was established by his family to honor his legacy.

More information about the COF Family Member Scholarships can be found at:
https://www.phscof.org/scholarships/family-member-scholarships/