



## PHS COMMISSIONED OFFICERS FOUNDATION

FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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### FOUNDATION AWARDS RDML MISHOE SCHOLARSHIPS

The PHS Commissioned Officers Foundation for the Advancement of Public Health (COF) is excited to announce that three students will be receiving RDML Mishoe Scholarships for the 2023-2024 academic year. They include **Hailey Smith, Christian Langley, and Alison Narog**. The scholarship program was established in 2021 by RDML Helena Mishoe, PhD, MPH to support the ambitions of high school students from underrepresented populations who are interested in the health sciences and other health-related disciplines.

Applicants were asked to submit an essay that described how they were impacted by RDML Mishoe's favorite quote from a former student: *"Hope emerges and the future begins for one person only when there is another who believes in the beauty of their dreams."* The applicants were selected based on their response to this question as well as on their resilience, school and community involvement, and demonstrated leadership.

In her scholarship essay, Hailey wrote that she wishes to pursue a career as a pediatric nurse. As someone who has had major health challenges, she values the importance of empathy and how individuals can make an impact. As highlighted in one of her recommendation letters, Hailey "has a special eye and ability for capturing what matters most." As a nurse, she wishes to "continue to mentor and support future generations and remind them to keep pursuing their dreams despite any obstacles or challenges that may try to stand in their way." She is a graduate of the Hawaii Technology Academy in Waipahu, Hawaii.

When discussing the theme of the above-mentioned quote, Christian wrote that "we cannot be alone if we wish to accomplish our dreams; it requires the help of others." He expands on this by saying that the support he received when feeling isolated and confused helped him come closer to his goals. Their encouragement bolstered his confidence and led him to develop strong leadership skills as a volunteer. During his many community activities, Christian learned to "bring people together for the greater good" and it is something that he plans to continue to do. He is a graduate of the Arizona Agribusiness & Equine Center.

In overcoming a significant sports injury, Alison learned that while she could not directly participate in the team sport, she was able to find other ways to contribute. She also realized that hard work and perseverance are important to being successful. For Alison, the quote means that "Dreams are not easy to reach, and they are only more difficult when you try to do it alone. Having someone there for you makes a huge difference, whether it is: offering perspective, support, comfort, advising, or company." Involved in a variety of volunteer activities, Alison is well known in the community for her willingness to help others. She is a graduate of Kodiak High School in Alaska.

The Foundation congratulates all three students who each exemplify a strong commitment to their communities and to pursuing higher education. It would also like to thank the donors who support this scholarship program and the volunteers who reviewed the fellowship applications. To learn more about the Mishoe Scholarship, please visit <https://www.phscof.org/scholarships/mishoe-believe-scholarship/>

The Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) is a member-based organization that supports and advocates for the USPHS Commissioned Corps and its active duty and retired officers. The foundation arm of the association, the Commissioned Officers Foundation for the Advancement of Public Health (COF) was established in 2000. Its primary goal is to advance and promote public health in the United States.

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