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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2025 – 2026 Academic Year Scholarship Recipients

Fort Smith, AR (August 19, 2025) We are pleased to announce the winners of the Fall 2025 - Spring 2026 academic year medical scholarships to students who are working hard to receive degrees in healthcare to eventually fulfill the needs of the 7-county area we serve. There were 18 recipients that received a total of **\$41,000.00** in awards:

1. **Junelle Balagtas** of Barling, AR received a \$4,000.00 award to the University of AR where she is working towards her MS to be a Family Nurse Practitioner.
2. **Madison Combs** of Pocola, OK received a \$3,000 award to the Northeastern State University where she is working towards her MS in Speech Language Pathology.
3. **Anna Lee** of Van Buren, AR received a \$3,000.00 award to the University of Central Arkansas where she is working towards her MS degree in Communication Sciences Disorders.
4. **Martin Nunez, Jr** of Alma, AR received a \$2,000.00 award to the University of Arkansas Fort Smith where he is working towards his BSN degree.
5. **Kobe Panis** of Greenwood, AR received a \$2,000 award in honor of Dr. James Greene to the University of Arkansas Fort Smith where he is working towards his BS in Nursing degree.
6. **Avery Phillips** of Fort Smith, AR received a \$2,000.00 award to the University of Arkansas Fayetteville where she is working towards her BSN degree.
7. **Ashlyn Roffine** of Fort Smith, AR received a \$2,000 award to the University of Arkansas Fort Smith where she is working towards her BS in Diagnostic Medical Sonography.
8. **Gracie Weidman** of Fort Smith, AR received a \$3,000.00 award to the University of Central Arkansas where she is working towards her MS degree in Communication Sciences Disorders.



9. **Meredith Atchley** of Fort Smith, AR received a \$3,000.00 award to the University of Tulsa where she is working towards her MS in Speech Language Pathology.
10. **Amy Chapman** of Greenwood, AR received a \$2,000.00 award to Chamberlain University where she is working towards her BSN.
11. **Hannah “Grace” Doolittle** of Van Buren, AR received a \$3,000.00 award to the University of Arkansas Medical Science where she is working towards her MS in Speech Language Pathology.
12. **Kaitlyn Gilkey** of Fort Smith, AR received a \$4,000.00 award to South College where she is working towards her MS in Health Sciences and Physician Assistant studies.
13. **Maggie Hicks** of Alma, AR received a \$2,000.00 award to the University of Arkansas Fort Smith where she is working towards her BS in Sonography.
14. **William Romero** of Fort Smith, AR received a \$2,000.00 award to the University of Arkansas Fort Smith where he is working towards his BSN.
15. **Hanna Sizemore** of Vian, OK received a \$2,000.00 award to the University of Arkansas Fort Smith where she is working towards her BSN.
16. **Bailee Woodard** of Van Buren, AR received a \$2,000.00 award to the University of Arkansas Fort Smith where she is working towards her BS in Diagnostic Sonography.

**For more information on Degen Foundation Scholarships,
please visit our website:**

www.thedegenfoundation.org