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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2026 – 2027 Academic Year Scholarship Recipients

Fort Smith, AR (August 20, 2026) We are pleased to announce the recipients of The Degen Foundation's scholarships for the 2026-2027 academic year. These scholarships support students pursuing healthcare careers who will help meet the healthcare needs of the seven-county area we serve. Scholarship funds are awarded directly to the students' educational institutions and applied toward educational expenses. This year, eight recipients received scholarship awards totaling **\$16,500.**

1. **Madison Combs** of Pocola, OK received a \$3,000 scholarship to the Northeastern State University where she is pursuing her Master's degree in Speech Language Pathology.
2. **Maggie Hicks of Alma, AR** received a \$2,000 scholarship to the University of Arkansas Fort Smith where she is pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Sonography.
3. **William Romero** of Fort Smith, AR received a \$1,000 scholarship to the University of Arkansas Fort Smith and is completing his Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.
4. **Jordan Biddle**, of Fort Smith, AR received a \$4,000 scholarship to the University of Memphis where she is pursuing her Doctorate of Audiology.
5. **Kyleigh Combs**, of Pocola, OK received a \$3,000 scholarship to Northeastern State University where she is pursuing her Master's degree in Speech Language Pathology.
6. **Jennifer Lann**, of Greenwood, AR received a \$1,500 scholarship to the University of South Alabama where she will graduate with a Master's degree and become a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner.
7. **Caitlyn Loftis**, of Fort Smith, AR received a \$1,000 scholarship to the University of Arkansas Fort Smith and will soon graduate as a Registered Nurse.
8. **Kinlee Myers**, of Van Buren, AR, received a \$1,000 scholarship to the University of Arkansas Fort Smith where she is pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

For more information on scholarships please visit our website:

www.thedegenfoundation.org