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**INDEPENDENCE BANK FINDS UNIQUE WAY TO CELEBRATE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**  
***Over \$185,000 Awarded to Seniors in the Communities the Bank Serves***

OWENSBORO, KY (April 30, 2020) - Independence Bank awarded \$185,400 in scholarships to students from their 12-county service area. These scholarships are part of a program that started in 2001 and has grown to encompass over \$1 million in funds given to local students. However, the program looked a little different with the absence of their annual reception and changes to the application process this year. Just as schools and other organizations are seeking out alternative ways to celebrate the Class of 2020, Independence Bank had to think outside of the box to facilitate the 2020 scholarship program.



Pictured: Lauren Patton, Charitable Foundation Manager,  
Independence Bank

“With the circumstances surrounding COVID-19, we made the tough decision to cancel our reception in March,” said Lauren Patton, Charitable Foundation Manager. “We also had to re-evaluate how we would conduct the interviews that are generally done face-to-face. However, this program is such an important part of what we do. It originated as a dream of my late grandfather. We wanted to continue to find a way to facilitate the program and recognize those students who were selected. They are already giving up so much of the “traditional” graduation celebrations that we wanted to make sure they knew how much we supported them and were proud of their accomplishments.”

Typically, students apply online by a given deadline and then finalists are selected. Those students participate in in-person interviews with 16-20

Independence Bank employees and directors depending on what market they are from.

Finalists and their families then attend a reception held at Independence Bank in Owensboro to find out what awards they have received.

This year, however, phone and FaceTime interviews were conducted instead, still allowing for reviewers to meet and interact with the students, even if it was virtually.

After students were selected as the recipients of particular scholarships, team members had the privilege of being able to call and personally congratulate those receiving scholarships in one-on-one conversations. Bank employees will also be delivering goodie bags and yard signs to each of the recipients in their markets.

"It is always such a challenge to select the students who receive funds from our program because each applicant stands out for one reason or another. As you read through the applications they poured their hearts and souls into, and you hear their story firsthand during the interviews they are all deserving," said Patton. "And the reality of the situation is, for some these scholarships are what allows them to pursue their dream of an education. It is a humbling experience. And this year was even more rewarding because our employees and directors had the chance to personally interact with the students and see their excitement in a more relaxed setting."

The Independence Bank Scholarship Program began in 2001 as a dream of the late Charles A. Reid, founding partner and father of current CEO, Chris Reid. Before his death, Charles requested that the scholarship program be built to provide an opportunity for deserving high school students in need to have the opportunity to receive a college education.

The very first scholarship given was in the amount of \$10,000. Since then, over \$1 million has been awarded to high school seniors to help make their dreams of a college education come true. Applicants are judged based on a submitted essay, high school grades, ACT scores, financial need, extracurricular activities, community involvement and personal interviews.

"My father joined the Navy to get the GI bill to pay for his college education and at 17-years-old he was sent to Korea during the Korean War. It was his dream to be able to provide students like himself who wanted to make the world a better place with the opportunity to get a college education, no matter their circumstances and without having to go to the lengths that he did," said Chris Reid, Independence Bank CEO and Chairman. "That's why our program allows students to 'tell their story' about why this scholarship is important to them and how it could benefit them. By looking at the student as a whole, we are able to award scholarships to those who may typically not have been awarded ones based solely on ACT, GPA and class rank. This program started as one \$10,000 scholarship and has extended to three generations of giving that awards well over \$100,000 annually. Without the support of my family and others that made this program possible, such as Gail Reisz Branch and the Davis and Lanham families, this program would not be what it is today."

The Independence Bank Scholarship program is comprised of over 50 scholarships that applicants are eligible to receive based on specified criteria; many honoring the founding partners of Independence Bank and their families.

Another unique aspect of the program is the funding of the community board scholarships. While a number of the scholarships are funded through the Independence Bank Foundation, those awarded by the Community Board of Directors in each market the Bank serves are fully funded by the members of the board.

“Our Community Board of Directors play such an integral part in what we do and who we are as a Bank, it only makes sense that they be involved in the scholarship program as well,” said Jacob Reid, President. “They are actively involved in reviewing applicants from their markets and facilitating the interviews with students to learn more about them and their circumstances. But even more than that, they provide the funds for the scholarships awarded by their boards themselves, from their own pockets. We are truly grateful to have board members who are not only actively involved in our business, but who whole heartedly believe in our mission and who we are.”

The scholarship program is just one piece of how Independence Bank remains unyielding in keeping community at the forefront of everything they do, a mission that was part of the foundation of the Bank. Since the beginning, they have connected with the community by volunteering their most valuable assets; their people and their time.

Today, the Bank also give back financially in a big way, investing \$1.4 million into the communities it serves in 2019 alone through scholarships, school sponsorships, build-a-bed project, park restoration and feeding and meeting the basic needs of those less fortunate.

“It is incredible to look back each year and see what we are able to accomplish together; our employees, our leadership team and our Board of Directors,” said Chris Reid. “And it is all because of the passion and dedication of those individuals who wake every day and enjoy coming to work to be part of something bigger. Those who go above and beyond what is expected to help make a difference for others. And all of our initiatives start out just as the scholarship program did, as the dream of one person. My father would be honored to see what we have been able to accomplish in his name.”

For the 2020 year, scholarships were awarded to the following students:

#### **Charles A Reid Scholarship - \$15,000**

The Charles A. Reid Scholarship is the original scholarship that started the Independence Bank program in 2001. It is given in honor of Charles A Reid, former Independence Bank Founder, CEO and President. His wish was to develop a scholarship program so that students could continue their pursuit of a higher education, something he placed the utmost importance on. A finalist is chosen from each market that Independence Bank serves and those finalists each

receive \$1,000, a \$500 Maurice Reisz Scholarship and a \$500 Ernie and Martine Davis Scholarship. One overall winner is selected based on an interview process and receives \$15,000.

**Winner:**

**AJ Avery**, Webster County High School

**Finalists:**

**Autum Bailey**, Franklin County High School

**Madison Baker**, Henderson County High School

**Nadia Barkovska**, Portland Christian High School

**Katie Caruthers**, McCracken County High School

**Trey Englehardt**, McLean County High School

**Braedon McCrae Price**, South Warren High School

**Dulce Cortes-Sanches**, Mayfield High School

**Landon Dale Harris**, Madisonville North Hopkins High School

**Jillian Kruse**, Hancock County High School

**Kevin Payne**, Owensboro High School

**Mason Thompson**, Daviess County High School

**Fatemah Yarali**, Murray High School

**Marjorie Reid Scholarship**

Marjorie Reid is the wife of the late Charles A. Reid, and was one of the founding partners of Independence Bank. Mrs. Reid awards these scholarships to an employee or a child or grandchild of an Independence Bank employee or director so that the pursuit of higher education is extended to the Independence Bank family.

**Drew Hartz**, Owensboro Catholic High School, Independence Bank employee, Owensboro - \$10,000

**Grant Oller**, Daviess County High School, son of Nick Oller, Corporate Lending, Owensboro - \$10,000

**Alex Shultz**, Murray High School, son of Heidi Shultz, Calloway County President, Murray - \$2,000

**Allison Story**, Owensboro Catholic High School, daughter of Susanne Story, Community Enrichment Officer, Owensboro - \$2,000

**Chris and Janet Reid Scholarship**

What started as a Christmas gift from the employees of Independence Bank to honor the work that Chris and Janet Reid have done turned into eight total scholarships being awarded to students from their home markets. Due to such an inspiring gesture, Chris and Janet decided to personally contribute as well. Chris currently serves as the CEO and Chairman of the Board for Independence Bank and was President of the Bank for over 25 years, following in the footsteps of his late father, Charles A. Reid. Janet worked for the Bank for over 30 years and retired as the

COO. The couple was so honored by what the employees had done in their name that they expanded the funding and chose to award the funds to eight different students in the markets they attended school.

**Elysia Bartley**, Daviess County High School - \$5,000  
**Cecelia Clemens**, Owensboro Catholic High School - \$10,000  
**Katherine Logan**, Owensboro Catholic High School - \$5,000  
**Luke Miller**, McLean County High School - \$5,000  
**Lily Moore**, Owensboro Catholic High School - \$5,000  
**Logan Patterson**, McLean County High School - \$5,000  
**Allie Phelps**, Daviess County High School - \$5,000  
**Clayton Rhoads**, Owensboro High School - \$5,000

**Agriculture Scholarship - \$5,000**

**Hallie Ellis**, Webster County High School

**Revolutionary Scholarship - \$2,000**

**Madison Baker**, Henderson County High School  
**Nicholas Belcher**, Owensboro High School  
**Katie Caruthers**, McCracken County High School

**Community Board Scholarships**

The Community Board Scholarships are funded entirely by Independence Bank's local community boards in each market. Applicants are reviewed by a committee of local employees in each market.

***Calloway County Community Board Scholarship***

**Abby Boike**, Calloway County High School - \$1,000  
**Echo Falwell**, Murray High School - \$1,000  
**Isaac Smith**, Calloway County High School - \$1,000

***Daviess County Community Board Scholarship***

**Bethany Mayfield**, Owensboro Catholic High School - \$3,000  
**Kevin Payne**, Owensboro High School - \$3,000  
**Alayna Petri**, Daviess County High School - \$2,000  
**Mason Thompson**, Daviess County High School - \$2,000

***Franklin County Community Board Scholarship***

**Lauren Walters**, Franklin County High School - \$1,000

***Graves County Community Board Scholarship***

**Audrey Fralix**, Graves County High School - \$1,000  
**Colin Price**, Mayfield High School - \$1,000  
**Dulce Cortes Sanches**, Mayfield High School - \$1,000

***Hancock County Community Board Scholarship***

**Jillian Kruse**, Hancock County High School - \$1,000

***Henderson County Community Board Scholarship***

**Gracie Hauke**, Owensboro Catholic High School - \$2,000

***Hopkins County Community Board Scholarship***

**Kreyton Cunningham**, Madisonville North Hopkins High School - \$2,200

***Jefferson County Community Board Scholarship***

**Nadia Barkovska**, Portland Christian High School - \$1,250

**Nathaniel Caudill**, Trinity High School - \$1,250

**Makia Doa Nguyen**, Sacred Heart Academy - \$1,250

**Mary Elizabeth Warren**, Sacred Heart Academy - \$1,250

***McCracken County Community Board Scholarship***

**Katie Caruthers**, McCracken County High School - \$750

**Madeline Kerr**, Saint Mary High School - \$750

**Abigail Kuntz**, McCracken County High School - \$750

**Noah Watson**, Alma Mater Academy Home School - \$750

***McLean County Community Board Scholarship***

**Isaac Humphrey**, McLean County High School - \$1,200

***Warren County Community Board Scholarship***

**Alexis Nicole Daniel**, Greenwood High School - \$500

**Caroline Faith Easley**, South Warren High School - \$500

**John William Howard**, Warren East High School - \$500

**Hallie Anna Lindsey**, Bowling Green High School - \$500

**Hsaw Resh**, Warren Central High School - \$500

***Webster County Community Board Scholarship***

**Hallie Ellis**, Webster County High School - \$500

**Natalie Austin**, Webster County High School - \$500

**Brandon De Garmo**, Webster County High School - \$500

**Jaci Hardison**, Webster County High School - \$500

**Chairman's Scholarship - \$5,000**

The recipient of the Chairman's scholarship is selected from the 13 finalists who interviewed for the Charles A. Reid Scholarship.

**Fatemah Yarali**, Murray High School - \$5,000

### **Liberty Square Trade School Scholarship**

**Damian Nole**, Henderson County High School - \$1,000

**Seth Melton**, Henderson County High School - \$1,000

### **Revolutionary Square Trade School Scholarship**

**Clayton Story**, Graves County High School - \$1,000

**Logan Taylor**, Mayfield High School - \$1,000

**Hannah Winfrey**, Graves County High School - \$1,000

### **Maurice Reisz Memorial Scholarship - \$10,000**

Maurice E. Reisz was a co-founder of Independence Bank and served as a Chairman of the Independence Bank board. He was also a local pharmacist in Daviess County. The Maurice E. Reisz Memorial Scholarship was intended for a student pursuing a pharmacy degree. Reisz' daughter, Gail Reisz Branch, provides this scholarship in honor of her father and his passion.

**Alison Kayle Baxley**, McLean County High School

### **Guy Reisz Memorial Scholarship - \$10,000**

Guy Reisz served as an Independence Bank board of director and this scholarship was intended for a student attending Kentucky Wesleyan College in Owensboro. Guy's sister, Gail Reisz Branch, provides this scholarship to honor her brother's love for Kentucky Wesleyan College.

**Cole N Richards**, Daviess County High School

### **Derek Hart Memorial Scholarship - \$1,000**

This scholarship is funded by Danny and Melva Hart of Hickory, KY in memory of their son. The scholarship is awarded to a Graves County student with hopes of returning to the family farm.

**Jake Whitford**, Graves County High School

### **Danny Flood Memorial Scholarship**

**Garrett Seay**, Mayfield High School - \$500

**Kyler Henson**, Mayfield High School - \$500

**Raychel Mathis**, Graves County High School - \$750

**Jake Whitford**, Graves County High School - \$750

### **Danny Peyton Memorial Scholarship - \$2,000**

This scholarship is funded by Independence Bank's Farm to Fork Dinner in Madisonville and awarded to an FFA student pursuing a degree in agriculture.

**Elissa Forbes**, Madisonville North Hopkins High School

**Lanham Family Business Scholarship- \$3,000**

This scholarship is funded by John and Wanda Lanham, Tony and Sandy Lanham, and Kenny and Debbie Lanham. The Lanham Family have been blessed to be involved in various businesses for over 35 years, so the scholarship is intended for a student pursuing a business major.

**Trey Englehardt**, McLean County High School

**Ernie and Martine Davis - \$3,000**

Ernie Davis has been a member of our Board of Directors for 20 years. He is co-owner of Ernie Davis & Sons and serves as the Bank's building chairman. Ernie wanted to be a part of the Independence Bank Scholarship Program because "Ernie Davis and Sons," a company which was founded by his parents, wanted to give back to the community that has supported them over the years. The scholarship is in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Davis.

**Holly Payne**, Daviess County High School

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**ABOUT INDEPENDENCE BANK:**

Independence Bank is a regional community bank with 25 locations in Calloway, Daviess, Franklin, Graves, Hancock, Henderson, Hopkins, Jefferson, McCracken, McLean, Warren and Webster counties. One of the fastest growing banks in Kentucky and fifth largest, Independence Bank possesses the size and experience to serve the largest and most complex clients and offers trust and investment services and agricultural services. As a banking revolution for the people, by the people, central to Independence Bank's mission is doing what is right and fair for customers, communities and employees. Independence Bank has been recognized in multiple categories by the American Bankers Association, including being named a Top Performing Bank and Best Bank to Work For, for 11 consecutive years, a Best Place to Work in Kentucky for 12 years and has assets totaling \$2.6 billion.