

Tennessee Physician Assistant Foundation 2019 Scholarship Recipients Announced at FallFest

By Frank Warren, Tennessee PA Foundation Secretary/Treasurer.

At the 43rd annual TAPA FallFest CME Conference in Gatlinburg, Tennessee Oct. 7-11, the Tennessee Physician Assistant Foundation student scholarship recipients were announced. The recipients were selected at the July TAPA Board of Directors' quarterly meeting in Nashville from all qualified applications received by June 30. The criteria used to evaluate applicants include being a currently enrolled, active student in a Tennessee Physician Assistant program, past achievements, volunteer service history, GPA, financial need and a short essay on future goals.

This year's recipients of the J.C. Carey Memorial Scholarship were Elizabeth Capelle, Catalina Gutierrez, Addison Clay Leinart, Whitney Rawls and Jonathan Packard. The James Montag, Jr. Military Service Scholarship was not awarded this year as no qualified application was received for this scholarship.

Elizabeth Capelle is a Bethel University student currently in her clinical year and expecting to graduate in May 2020. She already has a Bachelor of Science in biology from St. Louis University and an EMT Certification from IHM Academy of EMS, and she has been an EMT adjunct instructor as well. She credits her desire to become a PA with an encounter she had with a PA when she was in the third grade. She has already participated in three medical missions to Peru, Haiti and Belize. During her clinical year thus far, she has worked with a PA who owns a rural clinic and has found it very rewarding to work in an underserved population who desperately need healthcare. She hopes to work in family medicine or cardiology upon graduation and may even consider PA education given her history as an instructor. She very much appreciates the scholarship to help in funding some of her educational pursuits. Congratulations to Elizabeth on receiving a \$500 JC Carey Memorial Scholarship.

Catalina Gutierrez is a first-year student at the Lincoln Memorial University PA Program and is expecting to graduate in August 2021. She received her Bachelor of Science from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville where she studied biochemistry, cellular and molecular biology, and neuroscience. She was also an undergraduate teaching assistant. Her interest and eventual desire to become a PA occurred while working as a nurse's aide in a hospital which led to positive exposures to PAs in various departments - many of whom she ended up shadowing. Catalina places a lot of emphasis on volunteering and giving back as evidenced by more than eight years prior to PA school participating in cancer related fundraisers, Mobile Meals, volunteering in nursing homes and hospitals and more. She received a University of Tennessee Service Medallion upon graduation. She is also trilingual and has used her skills to help others and believes it will be very useful whether she chooses to stay in Appalachia or travel abroad to

work as a PA. Congratulations to Catalina on receiving a \$500 JC Carey Memorial Scholarship for which she was very thankful.

Addison Clay Leinart is a second-year student at the Lincoln Memorial University PA program and is expecting to graduate August 2020. She received her Bachelor of Science with major in kinesiology and minor in public health from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Addison previously worked as a patient care assistant in the oncology unit of Fort Sanders Hospital. She states empathy is a trait that she values in all aspects of her life and especially in her interactions with patients. She has been able to participate in a medical mission trip to Nicaragua, interact with numerous public health officials, and become exposed to the community health department through an internship in nutritional education. She plans on being an advocate for improved health outcomes in impoverished communities. She recognizes the health disparities on both a global and national level and hopes as a PA to help reduce barriers for patients. Congratulations to Addison on receiving a \$500 JC Carey Memorial Scholarship for which she was 'immensely grateful'.

Whitney Rawls is a first-year student at the Bethel University PA program and is expected to graduate May 2021. She is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin with a Bachelor of Science in health and human performance. She is her PA Class of 2021 Vice President and Student Admissions Representative. She started out with an interest in orthopedics after an 8th grade injury, surgery and physical therapy. She credits her sister in law, who is a PA, with giving her valuable information about our profession in helping her make the PA career decision to help fulfill her passion to work in orthopedics. Whitney states three goals motivate her through the entire process: to provide her family with valuable opportunities and life experiences, to treat and help people that desperately need it and, lastly, to give back to a community that has given her so much in West Tennessee. Congratulations to Whitney on receiving the JC Carey Memorial Scholarship for \$1,000 which she greatly appreciates in helping her attain her goal of becoming a PA.

Our final recipient was Jonathan Packard of the South College PA program who expects to graduate December 2020. Jonathan received his Bachelor of Science in exercise science and minor in nutrition from Brigham Young University. He received his Basic EMT credentialing from Weber State University and Advanced EMT from Davis Applied Tech College. He hopes to work in emergency medicine as he loves the fast pace, variability and uncertainty that comes with emergency medicine. To him, emergency medicine "presents an opportunity that forces you to maintain an attitude of lifelong learning." He is involved with the organization Operation Underground Railroad which works in rescuing trafficked children and feels working in the ER will allow him to have a direct impact on some of these victims' lives and medical care. Jonathan is married to a pediatric nurse and they are expecting their second child.

Congratulations to Jonathan on receiving the JC Carey Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$500.

Thanks to everyone who gives throughout the year and those who contributed through the FallFest fundraiser raffle. Through all your gifts, the Foundation was able to assist students like the deserving recipients above. This year we had more applicants that we would have loved to give additional funded scholarships to, so we hope as the year ends you will consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Foundation or consider setting up monthly contributions to help make a difference for applicants next year. Contributions can be mailed to PO Box 150785, Nashville, Tennessee 37215 or you may contact the TAPA office at (615) 463-0026 to set up monthly bank drafts or credit card payments.