

2015 Ruth B. Sayre Scholarship Winners

Katlyn Cowlham

Odebolt, Iowa



Katlyn will be attending Des Moines Area Community College to study Early Childhood Education. She plans to then transfer to Iowa State University to get her Bachelor's Degree. "I have a personal goal of finishing my 4-year degree in 3 years. When I graduate high school I will have enough college credits to have a half year completed." She would also like to get her license in coaching: she has been very involved with sports, as well as FFA, 4-H and other school activities. She has been a volunteer judge for Clay and Ida Counties, helped at county fairs, Parliamentary Procedure, National and State Conventions, District Leadership Camp, Ag Safety Day and was chosen as a leader for the Farm Bureau "I Am Ag Day," ...and many other volunteer activities in her community and church. She has worked in various jobs since 2012, (and detasseled corn since 2006) to help save for her college expenses. Katlyn says "I have many overall goals for becoming a teacher. I would like to be able to learn how to give young kids some good confidence

and self-esteem at an early age so that they can succeed better in life (this comes from a once very shy young girl). I would also like to start a program that would help kids deal with being picked on and being bullied. In my eyes you will never stop bullying, so why not instead focus on how to teach our kids how to handle it. Hopefully I can bring back to my community what my grade school teachers gave me, someone to look up to and feel that I gave them a positive start in their journey to succeed." Katlyn's character reference letters both believe that she will make superb contributions to society.

Frances Louise Garrett

Pine Village, Indiana

Frances received one of the 2014 CWC Scholarships. She is attending St. Frances of the Woods College, majoring in Equine Science/Business. She is the seventh generation to live on her family farm. "I have grown up understanding the hard work and pride it took to keep our farm in the same family for over 145 years." She is the second child of a single parent home that grosses less than \$22,000 per year. She is a current Equine Studies/Equine Assisted Therapy student ...and have gained exciting, ready-to-use, hands on knowledge that has inspired me to return to each class daily. My dream is to use my share of the farm and my degree to create an equine assisted therapy center that will utilize rescue horses in a therapy program that will benefit individuals of all disabilities and ages." During the summer she worked at the Purdue Extension Benton County Office as an intern. She was co-director of the 4-H Clover-bud Program. She has also worked with the USDA Food Finders Food Bank Inc. as Benton County Coordinator for the Summer Lunch Program. "Through these work experiences I have learned the importance of punctuality, organization, and managerial responsibilities" As an honor student, she is encouraged to take part in many benefit runs and walks, and other activities. This past semester she was in a study aboard program in Limerick Ireland, where she volunteered over 200 hours at a livery stable, a stud farm, and an equine assisted therapy center. "I learned many new methods and gained many valuable life skills while abroad," she said. One of her character reference letters stated "She has the intelligence to analyze and a curious mind to question information that is presented to her. She always arrives with a positive, contributive, and passionate attitude."



Victoria Gregory

Sandwich, Illinois



Victoria will be attending Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois, for a Bachelor's degree in Nursing. She attended Sandwich High School and also Indian Valley Vocational Center where she received her Certified Nurse's Assistant (CNA) license in April. In one of her jobs (Raging Waves Waterpark in Yorkville), she trained in CPR, basic life support and first aid. Besides working at several different jobs since she was 16 (to help her family finances and to save for college), she volunteered with Millbrook Trail Rides, where she helped them start a new business when they couldn't afford staff—she helped with the care, training and feeding of the horses, and helped prepare and give lessons and trail rides. Each year she spent 150 or more hours volunteering. In school she was a member of Peace for Paws, an animal rights and protection club, and DCP Safe, a club against teen drinking, smoking and drug use and promotes safe driving. During study hall she volunteered in the school office and the guidance office. “Ever since I was 10 I knew I wanted to go into the medical field and help people. This is one reason I am getting my CNA early. My Bachelor's is only my first educational goal. My second is to get my Master's in Nursing so I can one day be head of a unit or help kids like me fulfill their dream... and teach a CNA course,” she says. One character letter writer wrote: “Based on her experience in sports, success in the classroom, community involvement and personal characteristics, I would highly recommend Ms. Tori Gregory.”

Rita Irmie

Bennett, Iowa

Rita Irmie will be attending Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for an Associate Degree of Applied Science. She plans to major in Agricultural Geospatial Technology. It is a two-year program course of study with hands-on training in GPS (Global Positioning Systems) and GIS (Geographic Information Systems) analysis and data collection, in addition to agronomy and computers. She will be in a summer internship program so she can gain experience and earn income throughout the summer. After graduation she hopes to get a career with a major farm equipment manufacturer at a dealership in eastern Iowa. “I would like to work in a career where I can continue my training at work in the off season to stay informed of the latest products to help the US Agriculture Industry to be the most efficient in the world”: she says. In school she has been president of the Tipton High School FFA Chapter, and the school band, where she was Band Manager, Section Leader, and Student Staff, and has been Bugler for Bennett American Legion since 2011, and went to Girl's State in 2014. She has also been very active in the community: Cadet with the New Liberty Volunteer Fire Department and the Muscatine Area Council on Youth Leadership, among other activities. One character reference said “This young lady has a solid background in science, scholarship, leadership, citizenship and character.”

