



**NEWS IN EDUCATION  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Alabama Students and Educators To Be Awarded \$12,000 In Scholarships**

**Montgomery, AL, April 2, 2021** – School Superintendents of Alabama (SSA) and Curriculum Associates, the Scholarship Program Sponsor, are proud to announce the high school graduating seniors who are recipients of \$8,000 in SSA Student Scholarships and the educators who are recipients of \$4,000 in SSA Administrator Scholarships for 2021.

Congratulations to the SSA/Curriculum Associates Student Scholarship recipients who intend to pursue a degree in education from one of Alabama's public colleges or universities. The student scholarship recipients are: **Jared Hudson**, graduating from Baker High School in the Mobile County School System, who plans to attend the Bishop State Community College; **Caitlyn Rutledge**, graduating from A.L. Johnson High School in the Marengo County School System, who plans to attend the Coastal Alabama Community College; **Noah Gooden**, graduating from Andalusia High School in the Andalusia City School System, who plans to attend Jackson State University; **Kirsten Walls**, graduating from Hewitt-Trussville High School in the Trussville City School System, who plans to attend Jacksonville State University; **Benjamin Everett Jr.**, graduating from Fort Payne High School in the Fort Payne City School System, who plans to attend The University of Montevallo; **Jordan Perrin**, graduating from Cordova High School in the Walker County School System, who plans to attend the University of West Alabama in Livingston; **Lauren Sturdivant**, graduating from Russellville High School in the Russellville City School System, who plans to attend The University of North Alabama; **Jaylyn Massanelli**, graduating from New Century Technology High School in the Huntsville City School System, who plans to attend The University of Alabama in Huntsville.

These students were selected by the Superintendents who were chosen as district finalists for the SSA/Schneider Electric Superintendent of the Year (SoY) Award. The SoY finalists for 2021 include:

**Mr. Chresal Threadgill, Mobile County Schools** (selected as the 2021 SoY); Mr. Luke Hallmark, Marengo County Schools; Mr. Ted Watson, Andalusia City Schools; Dr. Christopher Blair, Bullock County Schools; Dr. Pattie Neill, Trussville City Schools; Mr. Jim Cunningham, Fort Payne City Schools; Dr. Dennis Willingham for Dr. Joel Hagood, Walker County Schools; Dr. Heath Grimes, Russellville City Schools; and Mrs. Christie Finley, Huntsville City Schools.

We are also proud to award scholarships to educators who plan to pursue a degree in school administration from one of Alabama's public colleges or universities. These educators are seeking degrees at the M.S./M.A., AA/Ed.S., or Ed.D./Ph.D. levels. The four educators selected to receive scholarships include: **Ana Behel**, a Facilitator/Teacher at Weeden Elementary School in the Florence City School System, who is pursuing an Ed.D in Educational Administration at The University of Alabama; **Stephenie Smith**, a Instructional Coach at Sparkman Middle School in the Madison County School System, who is pursuing an Ed.S. in Educational Administration at The University of Alabama; **Tonya Lettt**, a Math Specialist at Wilcox County Central Office in the Wilcox County School System, who is pursuing an Ed.D in Rural Education at the University of West Alabama; and **Coretta Gholston**, a Teacher at Pike County High School in the Pike County School System, who is pursuing a Master of Education at the University of West Alabama. These SSA/Curriculum Associates Administrator Scholarship recipients will be formally presented with a \$1,000 check by a representative from Curriculum Associates during an upcoming school event. All Administrator Scholarship applications were scored by SSA's Awards and Scholarships Committee composed of former local school superintendents.

“One of SSA's top priorities is to promote high quality public education throughout our state. This has become even more critical as we face a teacher shortage crisis not only in Alabama, but across our nation. It is our hope and belief that these scholarships will aid in the process of rebuilding our workforce by assisting these qualified students and educational leaders in achieving their career goals. These recipients have demonstrated a commitment to quality in our schools, and we are proud to be able to assist them as they pursue their degrees. Together with our partner, Curriculum Associates, we congratulate each scholarship winner” said Mr. Ryan Hollingsworth, SSA Executive Director.

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