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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**EIGHT KLAMATH COUNTY STUDENTS AWARDED \$1,000 EACH IN  
SCHOLARSHIPS BY EARL AND JANE FERGUSON SCHOLARSHIP  
FUND**

**MEDFORD, Ore.** — Eight Klamath County students will share \$8,000 in scholarships from the Earl and Jane Ferguson Scholarship Fund of Oregon Community Foundation. The \$1,000 awards will support students’ education and career goals.

Earl Ferguson served for 24 years as Superintendent of the Klamath Falls City Schools. The late Barbara “Jane” Ferguson taught fifth grade in the Klamath County School District and was an elementary teacher and librarian for the Klamath Falls City Schools.

“My parents believed deeply in the power of opportunity. Mom always said students would work hard if given the chance, and Dad never forgot how much the community helped his family when times were tough. This scholarship is their way of giving back — and making sure others have the same chance to succeed,” said Mel Ferguson, their son.

**Scholarships Awarded Since 1999**

Since the Earl and Jane Ferguson Scholarship Fund gave its first scholarships in 1999, the fund has awarded more than \$120,000 to Klamath County students.

“We are so grateful to the Fergusons for their generous support,” said Kaylin Preston, Program Associate for Scholarships with Oregon Community Foundation. “Community volunteers review applications and select Ferguson Scholarship recipients, and we’re thankful for them and for the educators and Klamath County community members who have supported these students along the way.”

OCF manages nearly 600 unique scholarship funds that support students from across the state as they pursue postsecondary education. In 2024, OCF awarded more than 3,500 scholarships totaling \$13.3 million. Students from rural communities received 48% of the scholarships awarded.

**The 2025 Ferguson scholarship recipients are:**

**Vashti Arata**, Bonanza, Ore., graduating from Bonanza Jr./Sr. High School, will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to attend Tulane University. Arata intends to become a certified public accountant and work in Oregon.

“This profession gives me the opportunity to help other people and make a sound living for myself,” Arata said.

Class valedictorian, Arata was active in student government, serving as student body president. She was also a leader in her school’s Future Farmers of America chapter and played four varsity sports: basketball, soccer, volleyball and softball. Arata volunteered with the American Red Cross Blood Drive, the Bonanza Lions Club Crab Feed and the Cody Sipes Memorial Race.

**Fayth Bond**, Keno, Ore., graduating from Henley High School, will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to attend Klamath Community College. She intends to become a physician assistant or pursue a career in emergency medicine.

“I plan on using my degrees and a background in ministry to help individuals around the world and in rural communities in the United States mentally, physically and spiritually,” Bond said.

Bond graduated as valedictorian with an honors degree and an associate degree in general studies. She worked part-time in high school and was active in band, music, drama and sports and founded and led a Bible club. She also planned summer Bible camps and served as a summer camp counselor.

**Chase Knecht**, Klamath Falls, Ore., graduating from Crosspoint Christian School, will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to attend Oregon Institute of Technology. He intends to become a physical therapist. Knecht played varsity baseball and made the Principal's Honor Roll all four years of high school.

**Alivia Miller**, Chiloquin, Ore., graduating from Chiloquin High School, will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to attend the University of Oregon. She intends to become a tribal lawyer.

"Helping my tribe to become stronger and successful is my life-long goal," Miller said. "The reconstruction and assimilation my tribes were forced to go through has inspired me to strive in regaining all we have lost."

Miller served on the Klamath Tribes Youth Council and was active in high school sports and leadership. She also worked full-time during the summer.

**Remy Nevarez**, Klamath Falls, Ore., graduating from Crosspoint Christian School, will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to attend Arizona State University. Nevarez intends to pursue a doctorate in history, minor in Spanish and become a history professor.

"I would like to further my Spanish to become involved in organizations that represent the interests and needs of and promote awareness of Mexican culture," Nevarez said. "I'm proud of my Mexican heritage and would like to give back to that community in any way that I can."

Nevarez played varsity football and made OSAA Football Academic All State in 2023 and 2024. Nevarez volunteered with the National Honor Society, served as secretary of the Aslan Chapter of NHS and worked part-time and summer jobs.

**Carlie Palmer**, Klamath Falls, Ore., graduating from Lost River High School, will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to attend Oregon State University-Cascades. She intends to become a dietitian.

Class President, Palmer was crowned Potato Festival Queen in 2024. She planned and managed the Lost River Olympics, a competition for elementary school children.

Palmer is a caregiver for her grandmother. She has volunteered as the basketball team manager, served food to homeless people with Gospel Mission Food Service and taught campers at Solid Ground Equine.

**Rain Reano**, Klamath Falls, Ore., graduating from Falcon Heights School, will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to attend Bushnell University. She intends to become a Christian clinical psychologist.

During high school, Reano volunteered nearly 350 hours for various organizations while maintaining a 4.0 grade point average and earning 36 college credits. She served as secretary, vice president and president of the student council. In 2024, Reano received the Horatio Alger National Scholarship. She will be the first in her family to attend college.

“I wholeheartedly believe that it is a pleasure to give back to the rural area and people that have essentially helped raise the next generation,” Reano said.

**Alexus Tenold**, Klamath Falls, Ore., graduating from Henley High School, will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to attend Oregon Institute of Technology. She intends to become a nuclear medical technologist.

“I have had many people in my family pass away from cancer or have the scare of it,” Tenold said. “The thought of being able to help people find out early, which increases their chances of survival, makes me feel like it would be an extremely rewarding career.”

Tenold was a magazine editor, contributed to her school yearbook and competed with DECA, a non-profit student organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. She also volunteered through Key Club and worked with a nuclear medicine mentor at Sky Lakes, a Klamath Falls medical center.

### **About OCF**

Since 1973, Oregon Community Foundation has worked to improve the lives of all Oregonians through the power of philanthropy. In 2024, OCF distributed more than \$211 million in grants and scholarships in every county in Oregon in partnership with donors and volunteers. Individuals, families, businesses and organizations can work with OCF to create charitable funds to support causes important to them. To learn more, visit [oregoncf.org](https://oregoncf.org).

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