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## ESAF CHAIRMAN ARTICLE

It is mid-August as I sit down to write this and it looks like it will be one of the hottest days we've had this year. Today I'm reflecting on the summer months and looking forward to September and the start of fall.

The Board and I would like to offer a big **THANK YOU** to all sponsors, state donors, and bidders who supported the Foundation Fund Fest at convention in North Carolina. While we had a smaller turnout at the event this year, our supporters really came through. Special call outs to the Oregon members who brought an irresistible flamingo purse and the California members who shipped their bag to be sure it arrived in time to auction it at the Foundation membership meeting. Due to delays in the mail, we were all biting our nails hoping it would arrive on time.



In addition to auctioning the bag at the Foundation membership meeting, we had a wonderful in person scholarship awardee speak and we heard recorded presentations from a graduate student awardee and a grant recipient. We will have these videos available on the Foundation website soon for those who were not in attendance.

As we move into fall, the scholarship window opens on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Given the current changes in the economy and educational landscape, we are anticipating the financial need of students to be higher than in the past. Now more than ever, we need your help sharing information about the Foundation scholarship program with college students of any age.

Additionally, we are still looking for nominations for Foundation Directors. The Board is a group of dedicated members committed to the betterment of others through education. We are looking for those with a similar passion and commitment to help achieve the Foundation's goals. If you are interested, please send in your nomination form and if you want to learn more about the roles, please contact me or anyone else on the Board. Nominations for the Director positions close on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Looking ahead to next year, I attended the 2026 convention planning meeting in Norfolk, Virginia last weekend and I can tell you that it is shaping up to be a great convention. The ESA International Council Board has reimagined convention and has artfully resculpted the agenda to fit it into three full days. This will help those with limited vacation time to attend as well as give others more free time to visit the area and connect with friends outside of meetings. The International Council Board and the Foundation Board are planning a fun filled joint fundraiser. We plan to continue to encourage states to provide an auction item for the event, so if your state starts planning early, we encourage you to continue with your plans.

As the days start to get ever so slightly shorter, I wish you a gentle transition from summer to fall and leave you with the words of Nelson Mandela who said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." With your help, the Foundation is empowering others to change the world. Thank you.

Kim Mandrell  
ESA Foundation Chairman



## State of the Foundation Report

At the ESA Foundation Membership meeting, you heard the speakers reference the State of the Foundation Report. The report provides a good overview of the Foundation's activities and program. The State of the Foundation Report can be found in the ESA website by holding down the ctrl button and clicking on the following link.

[State of the Foundation Report](#)

The directions to access the document from the website:

Click on pull down menu under *Scholarships & Grants*, and click on *ESA Foundation*

Scroll down to the second paragraph and click on *State of the Foundation 2024 Report*.

# Why Participate in the ESA Foundation Turnaround Fund

## Why does the Foundation have the Turnaround Fund?

As you know, the Foundation is a tax-exempt non-profit, 501(C)3, organization. To qualify as a non-profit tax-exempt organization by the IRS, the Foundation must receive one third of our contributions from sources other than our investment income. The use of the Turnaround Fund allows the Foundation to meet the contribution requirement and maintain our Tax-Exempt Non-Profit status.

## Why is the non-profit tax-exempt status important for the Foundation?

Tax-exempt non-profit status is crucial because it enables the Foundation to maximize the impact of every dollar. By being exempt from federal and state income taxes, the Foundation utilizes all our investment income directly into scholarships and grants that benefit the community. Retaining this status allows the Foundation to maximize our mission to service the community by helping individuals meet their educational goals.

## What do our members need to do?

- Rather than sending individual checks to one or more 501(c)3 charities, the individual sends one donation to the Foundation indicating which charity is to receive what amount. The Foundation turns around this request and sends individual checks to each charity back to the person using the turnaround funds. Then the person sends the checks to the individual charities.
- Item to remember: Checks are returned to the individual, not the charity, unless it specifically requested for the ESAMC staff to send them directly. The donating individual then presents the check or mails the check to the charity, giving them a chance to share their appreciation for the charity. This will help the charity recognize the ESA member or organization that is financially supporting them. The following are pictures of some ESA members presenting Turnaround checks to local charities.

## What is being done about the time it takes to complete a Turnaround Fund request?

The Foundation Board has heard several concerns regarding the time it takes to get checks back after they are mailed to the ESA office. The Board is working with the ESAMC staff to identify and resolve delays in the process. In addition, the ESAMC staff are working to improve the communication around when checks are received and when checks are sent back to the donor. An email will be sent to the donor when these two critical steps occur. The Board will continue to work with the staff on tracking and improving the Turnaround Fund processing. Please be patient and continue to provide feedback to one or more of the Foundation Directors, so the Board can monitor the Turnaround Fund Performance. The Board relies on your feedback to understand how well the process is working.



**Sharon George**, ESAF Foundation Counselor- MO, and **Molly Vehige**, ESA Gateway Intercity Council President presenting a Turnaround Fund check which has been received from ESAMC to **Debbie Fetsch** from Butterfly Haven.



**Diana Hughes** presenting a Turnaround Fund Check which she just received from ESAMC to **Kevin Kohler**, who is representing Six String Heros.

## Dues Reminder: Keep Your Voting Rights Active for 2026

To maintain your Foundation membership and ensure your eligibility to vote in 2026, please be sure your annual dues are received by December 31<sup>st</sup>. [If you are not sure if you have already paid next year's membership fee](#), please contact your state foundation counselor. Individual members electing to pay via credit card can do so through Zeffy using the following link:

<https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/esa-foundations-memberships>

or scanning the QR Code:



and **skip** completing the attached form.

For individual, chapter or council that prefer to pay by cash or check, please use the Contribution Form included in this newsletter.

While you are there, you have the opportunity to make an additional donation to the Foundation. The Donate ESAF tab will take you to the online donation form where you can contribute to an endowment, the grant fund, or other area of the Foundation that is dear to you.

If you have trouble navigating the on-line process, you can contact ESAMC office: 970.223.2824. Please remember that the office closes ~December 20<sup>th</sup> for the holiday break, so if you expect you may need their support, please plan to reach out before that holiday break.

Tired of trying to remember if you've paid your annual dues or are you looking to directly support the Foundation's Grant fund? Life Active Membership may be for you. Individuals, chapters, councils, or organizations interested in becoming Life Active Members make a one-time \$500 donation or two \$250 donations to become Life Active members. The contributions for Life Active Memberships are placed in a fund where the members' annual dues are paid each year as well as earnings from the fund are used to provide funds for the Grant program.

I have shared elsewhere in this newsletter the successes of those who have recently benefited from the Foundation's grants program.

Rosalie Griffith  
ESA Foundation Vice Chairman

# Shirley Dreyer Memorial Scholarship Winner



Elijah 'Eli' Spottswood

**Eli Spottswood** is the 2025 recipient of the **Shirley Dreyer Memorial Scholarship**. Eli recently graduated from Smithfield-Selma High School and is currently attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was very active in high school hosting multiple Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics, STEAM, awareness events through his robotics program. Eli has been accepted in the prestigious Hussman School of Journalism and Media. After graduation, he hopes to be working as a political correspondent for a national news organization. The Shirley Dreyer Memorial Scholarship is helping with the financial burden of associated with tuition and books. Eli is grateful for the ESA Foundation support, allowing him to offset the UNC tuition and pursue his Journalism dream.

# ESA Foundation Scholarship Winner



Onyinyechukwu 'Cynthia' Ukagha

**Onyinyechukwu “Cynthia” Ukagha**, a doctoral candidate in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at Tulane University, has been named a recipient of the **ESA Foundation Scholarship**, recognizing her pioneering work in sustainable energy and catalysis. Ukagha’s research focuses on the development of advanced zeolite catalysts—materials that play a critical role in transforming harmful greenhouse gases like methane and ethylene into cleaner fuels such as methanol. “My goal is not only to contribute to doctoral work, but also to contribute meaningfully to the global body of knowledge in catalysis, cleaner energy, and materials chemistry,” said Ukagha.

Beyond the lab, Ukagha is a passionate advocate for diversity in STEM. As Vice President of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and a leader in local outreach initiatives, she mentors underrepresented students and organizes STEM events to inspire the next generation of innovators. “This scholarship has allowed me to focus broadly on research, connect with the scientific community, and participate in conversations that matter,” she said. “I’m honored to be part of this journey that the Foundation is helping fund. I want to thank the Foundation for believing in students like me, as it has a greater impact than you can see.”



# Unlock Your Future with Scholarships

ESA Foundation Scholarship Application Portal is open from September 1, 2025 – February 2, 2026

Click on the following link for the scholarship portal:

<https://scholarship.epsilonsigmaalpha.org/>

**Scholarships available  
for students pursuing  
the following degrees:**

- Associates
- Bachelors
- Masters
- PhD



## Benefits of Applying:

- ✓ Reduce Student Debt
- ✓ Recognize your achievements
- ✓ Open the door for new opportunities
- ✓ Boost your resume



Even small scholarships add up. Apply to as many as you can!

# GRANT RECIPIENTS



**Rev. Dr. Brandon Ferguson** was awarded a \$2000 ESAF grant to pursue additional education to obtain his Clinical Pastoral Education certification.

Rev. Dr. Brandon Ferguson expresses his deepest gratitude for the generous scholarship awarded to support his journey in chaplaincy. The Foundation's investment in his calling is both humbling and inspiring to him. This gift is more than financial assistance—it is a powerful affirmation of the path he feels he has been divinely led to follow: to serve, to comfort, and to walk alongside others in their most sacred and vulnerable moments. Because of the Foundation support, he is able to continue his education and formation with renewed strength and clarity. The Foundation's generosity has not only lightened the burden, but it has also deepened my commitment to this sacred work.

He wants to express a heartfelt thanks to the Foundation membership for believing in his purpose and helping him pursue this ministry of presence and compassion.



**Bishop Daniel Garrett** was awarded a \$2000 ESAF grant to pursue additional education to obtain his Clinical Pastoral Education certification.

Bishop Daniel Garrett is the pastor of the Spirit Redeemed Baptist Church of Chicago and is a student in Clinical Pastoral Education Program. He wants to thank the ESA Foundation for thinking of him, and assisting him in the work that he has been called to do. Bishop Garrett said that “The ESA Foundation’s financial support helped lift the burden that was upon my life as I strive to receive the training that will help me bring the hope and healing and faith to people in need.” He appreciates the Foundation for entrusting our resources to somebody like him who stands on the front line to help people grow even in moments of tragedy and brings hope and faith to people who are in need. Bishop Garrett also indicated that the Foundation’s gift to him will not be in vain because he will use every bit of training helping people.





# Check these Off Your ESA Foundation

## To-Do List

-  **Add the ESA Foundation to your WILL through Planned Giving!**
-  **Enhance your career: Apply for a Grant today!**
-  **Start your Scholarship Application for whatever season of life you are in!**
-  **Honor someone in your life by donating to the Pathway Program!**
-  **Never worry about paying dues again: Become a Life Active Member!**
-  **Have an event? Get Digital Copies of Marketing Materials!**



## For more information go to:

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[www.epsilonsigmaalpha.org/contribute](http://www.epsilonsigmaalpha.org/contribute)

# ESA Foundation Announces Call for Director Nominations

The ESA Foundation has opened nominations for Director Positions for the 2026-2029 term. Two directors will be elected, each for a three-year term. The ESA Foundation Board consists of eight directors who are responsible for carrying out the Foundation's various programs and guiding its future. Each Director brings his/her own unique experience and qualifications to the role. Candidates must be enthusiastic, active, and dedicated ESA Foundation members committed to helping the Foundation remain a strong and vital part of ESA.

The official Call for Nominations Form is available following this News Article and at <https://epsilonalpha.org/about/ESAFoundation>; Deadline for nominations is October 1, 2025. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me or one of the other Directors. Please submit completed forms to:

Rosalie Griffith  
32704 S. Highland Road  
Inola, OK 74036  
[rosalie.griffith2@aol.com](mailto:rosalie.griffith2@aol.com)



# ESA FOUNDATION CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In accordance with the ESA Foundation Bylaws, it is the duty of the Nominating Committee to nominate candidates for two (2) Directors to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors for an ensuing three-year term. Nominations may be submitted to the Committee up until October 1, of each year. A nominee for Director must hold active membership in the ESA Foundation and be entitled to vote at the time the candidacy is put to a vote of the membership.

**LIMITATIONS:** No Director may serve more than two (2) consecutive 3-year terms unless filling a vacant director position; or hold an elective position on the Executive Board of the International Council of Epsilon Sigma Alpha, or be an employee of the ESA Membership Corporation, or hold an elective position on the Board of Directors of the Epsilon Sigma Alpha Membership Corporation during her/his term of office on the ESA Foundation Board of Directors.

**BASIC FUNCTION:** To actively participate in conducting the business of the Foundation by fulfilling the specific requirements of the Board of Directors; to give time and expertise in planning the future and growth of the ESA Foundation.

### RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Conduct the business of the Foundation in a professional manner.
2. Maintain the integrity of personal and Foundation activity.
3. Expand services and conduct projects within the framework of creditable business practices and viable parameters.
4. Attend all meetings, including IC convention as a candidate and multi-day meetings at midyear and IC Convention.
5. Carry out official and/or committee assignments in ways that meet functional requirements of the Foundation.

### JOB QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Ability to travel to all Board Meetings, the Annual Meeting, and occasionally to IC Leadership or State meetings
2. Have a basic knowledge of the ESAF scholarship and grants program or similar programs with other organizations
3. Demonstrates leadership ability and willingness to work collaboratively with a diverse team
4. Have a working knowledge of word processing, spreadsheet software, electronic file shares (i.e. Dropbox, Google Drive, etc.) and web-based meeting software (i.e. Zoom, WebEx, GoTo Meeting, etc.)
5. Demonstrates timely follow through on commitments, open to new ideas, and a passion for the goals of the Foundation

CANDIDATE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
[Street] [City] [State] [Zip]

PHONE (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

HOME E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ WORK E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**LIST QUALIFICATIONS/EXPERIENCE:** On a separate page, please list experiences and areas of expertise that demonstrate the qualifications of a Director. These could include, but are not limited to, items such as experience in accounting/bookkeeping; investments; the use of computers; fund raising; scholarship procedures; offices held; etc.

**BUSINESS:** Current / Former Employment \_\_\_\_\_ How Long \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

**I want to serve as a Director on the ESA Foundation Board. If elected, I will strive to fulfill the mission of the ESA Foundation. I am an individual Active Member of the ESA Foundation. I have attached a Resume, which includes a listing of Personal, Professional and/or Civic Memberships (including ESA).**

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Signature of Nominee] Member of ESA Foundation since: \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete and Mail this Nomination Form, Resume, and Photo by OCTOBER 1, to:**

**Rosalie Griffith, ESA Foundation Vice Chairman**  
32704 S. Highland Rd., Inola, OK 74036  
Phone: 918-637-2418 / E-mail: [rosalie.griffith2@aol.com](mailto:rosalie.griffith2@aol.com)

# Thank You Thank You Thank You

## For supporting the Foundation Fund Fest

The Foundation Fund Fest was an evening of fun, socializing, and catching up with friends and ESA members. We appreciate all the volunteers who helped set up, take down and run the activities to make the night a success. The Foundation also greatly appreciates the States that donated baskets, people that donated items for bid, and the bidders, who were very generous when bidding for the various items. Lastly, also vital to the success of the Fund Fest were the sponsors, who were also big hearted with their donations. We wanted to recognize the sponsors who are listed below.

### **Bronze Sponsors (<\$100)**

Margaret Kramer

Kappa Kappa – TX Chapter

Beth Pompa

### **Carnival Sponsors (\$100 - \$199)**

Sue Ceriale

Barbara Price

Rosalie Griffith

Maureen Wells

Lynn Howley

New Mexico State Council

Cindee Leong

### **Silver Sponsors (\$200 - \$299)**

Bobbie Massey

IC Executive Board

In Memory of Carol Worley

Kathy Loyd

Brenda West

### **Gold Sponsors (\$300 - \$399)**

Julene and Tim Donnay

Judi York

Connie Russell

### **Pearl Sponsors (\$500 - \$599)**

Arkansas State Council

Patricia Howerton

# Pathway Recognition

## Purple & Gold (\$1000)

Lambda Iota Members

Honoring a great  
chapter

## Forest Green (\$150)

Steve York

Thanks for being there  
for me.

## Red (\$50 - \$100)

Alpha Gamma Chapter

Thanks for all you  
do.

Gordon Leong

Thanks supporting  
the Foundation

## Purple (\$500)

Caroline Worley

Thanks for all your  
support of the Foundation  
over these many years.

## Light Green (\$100)

Ramona Bench

Thanks supporting the  
Foundation

Jennifer Jezek

Thanks for being there for  
me.

Mark Leyes

Thank You for continuing  
to support the Foundation

Stephen Sparkman

Thanks supporting the  
Foundation

Trent York

Thanks for being there for  
me.

## Light Blue (\$25)

Mackeigan Bickel

Thank you for supporting the Foundation by  
developing the marketing plan.

Sharon George

Thank you for all your hard work as a  
Foundation Counselor

Betty Keaton

Thank You for supporting the Foundation

Cindee Leong

Thank you for your work on the Foundation  
newsletter and generally supporting the  
Foundation.

Kathy Loyd

Thank you for transporting the Fund Fest  
supplies to IC. You are instrumental in the  
success of the Fund Fest Event

Kimberley Mandrell

Thank you for your leadership of the  
Foundation

Cheri Lee Thomas

Thank You for your service to the Foundation

**You too can honor someone by going to:**

# Plateaus of Achievement 2025

## Bronze - \$250 - \$499

Arkansas	Linda Cotterman	Minnesota	Kim Larsen
Arkansas	Meghan Good	Missouri	Carol Huesemann
Arkansas	Pam Thomas	New Mexico	Collene Baldwin
Arizona	Suzanne Godard	Oklahoma	Charlene Law
Colorado	Chris Dostal	Oklahoma	Rita Hains
Colorado	Shirley Conway	Oregon	Marsha Klosterman
Florida	Mary Sosa	Tennessee	Betty Trent
Florida	Roberta Boyles	Virginia	Nicole Lewis
Georgia	Vicki Warren	Washington	Sissy Roeder
Kansas	Cheryl Pucket	Wyoming	Sigma Chi #4806
Kansas	Tamara Mitchell		

## Silver - \$500 - \$999

Arkansas	Deborah Patton	Missouri	Gordon Leong
Arkansas	Marilyn Hoke	Missouri	Terri Breedlove
Arizona	Kathleen Riebock Kevin & Deborah Mayhew	North Carolina	Sharon Frost
Arizona	Yvonne Farrell	Nebraska	Marilyn Geier
Colorado	Rhonda Coy	New Mexico	Sara (Sally) Henning
Florida	Sherrie Bordeaux	Ohio	Kathleen Solt
Georgia	Brenda Chatham	Oklahoma	Alpha Zeta #3067
Iowa	Jeannie Ellis	South Carolina	Sondra Kucklick
Indiana	Jenni Russ	Texas	Epsilon Pi #1185
Indiana	Lisa Baum	Tennessee	Jodi LeVesque
Kansas	Phyllis Simmons	Texas	Donna Carter
Kansas	Brenda Arnoczky	Texas	Jane Cooper
Michigan	Susan Johnston	Washington	Jerie Longacre
Michigan	Cindee Leong	Wisconsin	Tim Baxter
Missouri			

## Crystal - \$1,000 - \$4,000

Alabama	Kathleen Camardella	Illinois	Omega Nu #5382
Alabama	Delta Gamma #4294 El Sudoeste Regional Council #Z597	Indiana	Angela Hamer
California	Carol McCormick	Kansas	Patsy Jenks
Connecticut	Venetia Lewallen	Texas	Audrey Eoff
Georgia		Wisconsin	Judith Baxter

## Turquoise - \$5,000 - \$14,999

Arkansas	Theda & Robert Hall	Michigan	Pauline Saltsman
Kansas	District J - Kansas #Z608	Washington	Beth Gibson



# Plateaus of Achievement 2025

## Pearl - \$15,000 - \$24,999

Florida

[Rho Chi #5351](#)

Missouri

[Beta Tau #4871](#)

## Peridot - \$25,000 - \$49,999

Georgia  
Missouri

[Alpha Delta #5521](#)

[Kathy Loyd](#)

South Dakota

[Jan Jones](#)

## Garnet - \$50,000 - \$74,999

Texas

[Texas State Council #Z944](#)

## Tourmaline - \$200,000 - \$299,999

Arizona

[Alpha Omicron #2520](#)

## Tanzanite - \$300,000 - \$499,999

Missouri

[Rho Chi #2988](#)

For Office Use Only:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_  
Receipt #: \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_



**FOUNDATION®**  
EPSILON SIGMA ALPHA

## CONTRIBUTION FORM

**ESA Foundation ♦ 2580 E Harmony Rd. Suite 301-11, Fort Collins, Colorado 80528**

A member is considered ACTIVE and is eligible to vote at the annual meeting if his/her dues have been received at the Headquarters office by December 31st.

Enclosed is my donation, made payable to ESA Foundation in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

This Donation is from: ☐ an individual ☐ a group (chapter/council/corporation/other)

Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member # \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter/Council/District # \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter/Council/District Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card: ☐ Master Card ☐ VISA ☐ Discover Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_ (3 digit # back of card)

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please apply my donation to: ☐ \$40.00 Annual Dues

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Perpetual Endowment for: \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Scholarship for: \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Other for: \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: Other Perpetual Endowment and Scholarship – Please insert specific Name)

This Donation is a memorial for: \_\_\_\_\_

This Donation is in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledgement Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\***WE SINCERELY THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION**\*\*\*\*\*