

ESAF Chairman Article

As I sit down to write this article, I hear the words “It’s the most wonderful time of the year...” in my head. I know some of you reading this will have already had snow, while others are recovering from significant flooding, and still others are dealing with drought and unprecedented fires and I’m thinking of all of you who are experiencing these challenges. In St. Louis, we’ve had an extremely mild Fall and finally received some rain to help with our drought (although most of the rain came over a 4-day timespan). My plants are trying to figure it out too, as my hydrangea decided it would finally bloom in October. I have photos of it blooming alongside the carved pumpkins on my porch.

As we are all gearing up to dive into all the activities of the holiday season, I wanted to take a moment to focus on the next holiday, Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving gives us a chance to reflect with gratitude on the positive things in our lives. Having been the Chairman this year, I am grateful for the current Foundation Board members. They are a very dedicated group who work tirelessly to ensure the success of the organization.

I’m especially grateful for two of our Board members, Patricia Howerton and Ann Southall, who, having completed two three-year terms, are stepping down from their directors’ positions. They have both been invaluable members of the Board and will be missed. We look forward to engaging with them in the future.

I’m also extremely grateful for our incoming (and returning) directors who will be announced later in the newsletter. Being a Foundation director takes time, but it also takes a love of the organization, and these folks have that.

When we talk to those who might be interested in being on the Foundation Board, we often hear that people think it is a lot of work. Well, in some ways it is. What makes it magical is that the Board members are all pulling in the same direction and are very supportive of each other. In addition, we have very supportive members who are willing to jump in and help support the Foundation’s projects. So, that brings me to the final thing that I’m grateful for today, which is you, our membership. Thank you for your continued support of the Foundation and for sharing the news about the Foundation so, together, we can reach many students, impacting their lives, and as a result, their communities, and quite possibly, our world through their education.

Kim Mandrell, Chairman

*I've
So much to be
THANKFUL
for*

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ESAF Endowment Information

The annual endowment statements have been distributed electronically to the designated contact for each endowment. If you haven't received yours, please check that the statement did not appear in your spam folder. Since distributing these statements, I have received many questions and concerns. I welcome such concerns and will address some of them below.

Legal responsibility for each endowment lies with the ESAF Board of Directors. As such, the scholarship and endowment committees meet at least annually to consider each endowment.

In 2004, after recommendations by our financial advisors, the Board established a 3-year rolling rate average as the main consideration as to whether a scholarship will be awarded in the upcoming year. Some organizations use a 5-year rolling rate average. Using a 3-year rolling rate average enables the committee to consider the instability of the markets and the general economy always with the established goal of long-term health and financial stability of each endowment. I understand that each endower has the express goal and interest in providing a scholarship to worthy students and I understand that it can be disappointing when the committee decides the criteria has not been met.

Please understand that the volunteers who serve on the ESA Foundation board serve because they support and appreciate all those who have generously donated their money to establish these endowments and that each board member has the express purpose of working for the long-range health of all endowments.

Please continue to support the fine work and long-range goals of ESA and the ESA Foundation as we work together FOR THE FUTURE.

Judith King

Endowment Chair



Dues Reminder:

Be sure your annual Foundation member dues are received by Headquarters by December 31st to ensure your voting rights for 2025. Individual member contributions can be made on-line by logging into the ESA Member Center (<https://esa.users.membersuite.com/>) and clicking on the ESAF + Other Mbrsps tab. Look for the **blue icons** for paying ESA Foundation membership dues. While you are there, you have the opportunity to make an additional donation to the Foundation. The Donate to 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.

For chapter or council dues or if you just prefer to pay by check, please use the Contribution Form included in this newsletter.

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

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.

Consider a **Life Active Membership** to support the Grant Program, and to avoid yearly dues

I'm looking forward to sharing the successes of those who have benefited from the Foundation's grants and scholarships with our members in the coming year.

Ann Southall
ESA Foundation Vice Chairman



Turnaround Fund

Is your chapter, state, or region preparing to make charitable donations for the year? Please consider using the **ESAF Turnaround Fund**. This helps ESAF maintain our 501(c) 3 status. A few things to remember when using the Turnaround Fund:

1. Your check must be made out to the **ESA Foundation**, and a minimum of \$25.
2. Your donation must be to a 501 (c) 3 Non-Profit Charitable Organization and include their **EIN**. If you aren't sure if your organization meets the requirement, you can ask a Foundation Director or search www.guidestar.com.
3. Please complete the Turn Around Fund Request Form at <https://www.epsilonalpha.org/contribute#turn>.
 . You can add up to 10 different charities to a single form. If you have more than 10, please complete another form. This helps expedite the processing of the request.
4. The checks to the specific charity will be mailed back to the requestor for distribution to the organization.
5. There is no charge to you for this service.

Meet Our ESA Foundation Director Candidates for December 2024

We are fortunate to have the following three qualified ESAF members for the three open Director positions. The following is a synopsis from their nomination forms. The ESAF Board has approved the following candidates. Since the positions are not contested, no election will be required in December this year. Ann Southall, ESAF Vice Chairman



Rosalie Griffith

Rosalie Griffith was a Founder and chair of the ESA Membership Corporation and is a past IC President. Rosalie is a Life Active Member of the Foundation and currently serves as the ESA Foundation Grants Chair. Rosalie is also a Parliamentarian and a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians. Rosalie is active in several community and civic organizations. She is Founder and President of the Inola Educational Enrichment Foundation and serves on the Northeast Technology school board. She serves as a Director on the Inola Area Chamber of Commerce and past Chair of the Advisory Counsel for Safenet Services, a nonprofit organization for Domestic Abuse. Rosalie also serves on the Leadership Rogers County Board of Directors and is a past chair of the Rogers County Health Department Board of Trustees.

Rosalie serves as Secretary/Treasurer for the Rural Economic Development of Inola Trust Authority and is currently on the Parks Committee. She chaired the Oklahoma Century Community Project for the Town of Inola and was successful in getting the town certified as an Oklahoma Century Community through the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. She is a graduate of the Oklahoma Citizens Academy, sponsored by the Oklahoma Community Institute.

Rosalie has authored many successful grants for the Town of Inola and was recently awarded the Oklahoma All State School Board member for 2024 by the Oklahoma State School Boards Association.

“ESA is my real passion and I believe my experience in ESA and community involvement can be an asset to the ESA Foundation. I am a past member of the ESA Foundation Board and currently serve as the Grants Chair for the Foundation. I have successfully worked with the Foundation Board in the past and feel my past experience would be an asset in helping achieve goals that will benefit the organization as a whole.”



Jennifer Sparkman

Jennifer is the owner of Sparkman Realty Group in Guthrie, OK, and has a Master's in Public Administration with an emphasis in Health Policy, a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, and a Bachelor's of Science in Secondary Education.

She is very experienced in Not-for-profit organizations and is a board member on a number of them. Some of the organizations she is involved in are the Guthrie Territorial Christmas Foundation, the Guthrie Lion's Club, and Salute to Veterans.

She has served on the ESA Foundation Board of Directors for the past three years, as well as being very active in the Oklahoma State Council of ESA as an officer as well as the MARC Regional Council.



Anne Murray

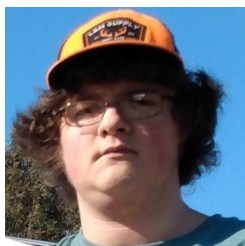
Anne is an experienced Leader/Mentor with extensive background in the financial services, telecommunications, and healthcare industries. Anne has proven skills in partnering with both local and remote teams to effectively managing large- and small-scale projects in order

to streamline and automate processes and procedures. Her strengths include being able to communicate with members of the teams at all levels and translating technical details into more standard business terms. She is proficient at database management and report development and has developed teams that value cross-functional working relationships.

She currently is a senior manager in program management for Charter Communications in St. Louis, MO. and is a project leader to coordinate, develop and implement company initiatives, tracking project milestones, resource allocations, budget management, as well as working with project objectives and results. She has a Master's in Business Administration with an Emphasis in Computer Information Systems and Bachelors of Science in Personal Financial Management Services

She is a life active member of the ESA Foundation and has held several offices in ESA including 2016-2017 Missouri State President. She is also involved with Renaissance St. Louis, having served as cast member, assistant guild leader, and merchant coordinator for historical educational not for profit.

DONOVAN VANUSEK – WISCONSIN 2024 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



Growing up in the middle of nowhere is definitely different than in the city and having Asperger's Syndrome and autism did not help. I had to take speech class from a young age to help cope with my autism, particularly dealing with anger, learning things like body language and conversation etiquette, and dealing with my emotions in a calmer way. I have improved greatly since I was little and am now off an IEP educational plan, but I do retain a 504 plan. COVID was not easy for me either, I ended up failing classes for the first time ever during my freshman year, and the rest of my class grades weren't too pretty. But I had a 4.0 GPA for the first semester of the 2023-24 school year and plan to keep it that way for the second semester. In my sophomore year I was a part of the student council. I was elected class president my junior year.

The "Northern Four;" Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, and Iron counties of Wisconsin are fairly low-income areas and even more so if you don't have anything more than a high school education. Sure, you can find work at entry level jobs fairly easily due to the current status of the job market, but for more advanced jobs, you will need a college degree.

After school, I plan to get a job full time at the Ashland County dispatch center while I attend college so I can help pay the tuition. I plan to attend college for a major in Criminal Justice. I feel this is a good fit for me since I want to be able to give back to the community I took from. I cannot think of a better way to do that than helping to keep them safe. In addition, attending college will be an example to my younger brother to continue his education beyond high school.

Help us Spread the Word!!

Share the Facebook Posts about Scholarships and Grants

ESI IZIM – 2024 MINNESOTA STATE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



My name is Esi Izim, and I am a second-year full-time student enrolled in Minnesota State University's Mankato Doctor of Nursing/Family Practice program. I also work for Allina Health Hospital on the Neuro and trauma floor. I have worked in various settings, including TCU, memory care, hospice, and assisted living, as a nursing assistant for four years and then as a nurse for five years. Apart from my role as a bedside nurse, I have been a Clinical Instructor for the Minnesota State University, Mankato BSN Senior students since August 2023. I love teaching, and I know that as the healthcare system currently faces a staffing shortage, we need more nursing faculty members to teach and guide the next generation of nurses. Hence, I am committed to collaborating with nursing organizations and nursing schools to teach their nursing students at the clinical sites, providing them mentorship and helping them build a strong foundation in nursing skills and leadership.

I am a full-time student, taking 10-12 credits per semester. My studies require most of my attention, but I also have family responsibilities in Togo, West Africa. Juggling both has been quite a challenge. As the sole financial provider for my family of five, receiving this scholarship has greatly relieved some of the financial burden and allow me to focus solely on achieving my dream of becoming a Nurse Practitioner. Five years from now, I see myself serving as a dedicated nurse practitioner at a local clinic, helping individuals, especially those from minority groups, achieve a healthy and fulfilling lifestyle. I am grateful for this scholarship opportunity and confident in my ability to excel academically and professionally.

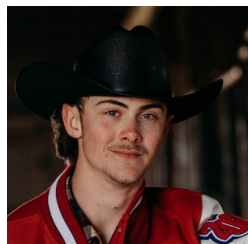
Scholarship Season Open!

Scholarship Season opened on September 1. Scholarship applications will be accepted until midnight CT on January 31, 2025.

There are scholarships available for everyone and any major/school. If you, or someone you know, will be attending any level of college—visit the ESAF Scholarship page and start your application.

<https://www.epsilonsigmaalpha.org/scholarships-and-grants>

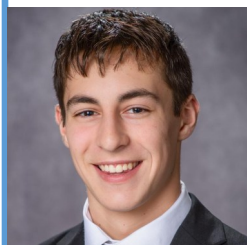
NATHAN COOPER – 2024 DOROTHY DYER VANEK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



I wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge my appreciation for being selected as the winner of the scholarship.

I don't think I can adequately convey with my words just how sincerely appreciative not only I, but my Momma and Step-Dad are as well. This has been a tremendous blessing to my family. The smile and "eeeeek" that came out of the Momma was so awesome! I want all of you to understand how truly, truly grateful we are. I am excited to attend Mission University and study Architectural Design as well as playing baseball for the Patriots.

CALE CULICERTO – WEST VIRGINIA SCHOLARSHIP 2024 WINNER



Cale is attending Ohio University majoring in Molecular and Cellular Biology with a short-term goal to attain a degree in Biology that will ultimately help him achieve his end goal of becoming a dentist. He has prepared for this goal by taking advanced placement and dual credit college courses while in High School.

He hopes that by taking these courses while in high school it will help him prepare for the rigorous course work that is in his future and years to come. This demanding course work coupled with his athletic and volunteer commitments have been challenging at times, to say the least, but this taught him that to accomplish all the goals that he set, he will need to prioritize his course work with extra-curricular activities to obtain his ultimate goal of becoming a dentist.





Pathway Program

The Pathway Program was launched in 2023 as an exciting new way to honor those we care about with the benefit of strengthening the ESA Foundation's Scholarship program.

As we look back on 2024, we have a lot to be thankful for regarding the expansion and course of the **Pathway Program**. At I.C. Convention this year, we added the **Pathway Surprise event** to our Annual Meeting. Attendees were able to purchase a Pathway Brick at Convention and surprise a recipient with a box of treats to let them know they are special. This event was so successful, we plan on doing it again in 2025 with new surprises for all.

We thank those who have contributed to the program and wish everyone a beautiful holiday season and a very Happy New Year.

If you would like to honor someone through the Pathway Program go to:

<https://www.epsilonalpha.org/Contribute>



For IOffice 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

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*******