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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TEN KLAMATH COUNTY STUDENTS AWARDED \$1,000 EACH BY THE EARL AND JANE FERGUSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. — Ten Klamath County students will share \$10,000 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.

The scholarship was established by two lifelong educators in Klamath County who strongly believed in the power of educational opportunity. Earl Ferguson served for 24 years as Superintendent of Klamath Falls City Schools and 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. Earl passed earlier this year, and Jane in 2023. Their legacy continues through the Earl and Jane Ferguson Scholarship.

“Both of my parents dedicated their lives to the students and schools of this community, and seeing this scholarship carry on their legacy means everything to our family,” said Mel Ferguson, their son. “These young people heading off to pursue careers in medicine, technology, the arts and beyond are exactly the kind of students my parents had in mind when they created this fund. They are an inspiration, and I know my parents would be so proud.”

**Scholarships Awarded Since 1999**

Since the Earl and Jane Ferguson Scholarship Fund gave its first scholarships in 1999, the fund has awarded more than \$130,000 to Klamath County students.

“Over 130 students have been directly impacted by the Fergusons support, helping them pursue their educational goals,” said Kaylin Preston, Program Associate for Scholarships at Oregon Community Foundation. “We are so grateful to Earl and

Jane for their generosity, to the community volunteers who review applications and select scholarship recipients, and to the educators and 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 2025, OCF awarded more than 3,400 scholarships totaling \$15 million. Students from rural communities received 48% of the scholarships awarded.

The 2026 Ferguson scholarship recipients are:

**Daisy A. Kupitz**, Klamath Falls, graduating from Klamath Union High School, will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to attend Oregon Institute of Technology. She plans to study mathematics and statistics.

**Eily R. Hawkins**, Malin, graduating from Lost River Jr/Sr High School, will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to attend Klamath Community College. She plans to study registered and clinical nursing.

“This scholarship means a lot to my family and me. We are very thankful for all you do for the community. It will help me get to my goals and keep pushing me to strive to be better,” Hawkins said.

**Emma S. DeJong**, Bonanza, graduating from Lost River Jr/Sr High School, will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to attend Oregon Institute of Technology. She plans to study cardiovascular technology.

“I feel very blessed and could not be more thankful for the opportunities I have been given. This scholarship has not only supported my ability to pursue an education but a chance to follow my dreams,” DeJong said.

**Himani J. Patel**, Klamath Falls, graduating from Henley High School, will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to attend the University of Oregon. She plans to study pre-medicine.

“As a student from an immigrant family, this scholarship provides the life-changing opportunity to pursue my dream of entering the business and technology fields without financial burden. Knowing this award was created to give hard-working students a chance inspires me to work my hardest, break into the tech industry and ultimately give back to my community,” Patel said.

**Jeremy Raygoza Cortez**, Bonanza, graduating from Bonanza High School, will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to attend Lane Community College. He plans to study graphic design. Raygoza Cortez will be the first in his family to attend college.

**Maxwell L. Hendricks**, Klamath Falls, graduating from Klamath Union High School, will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to attend Nebraska Wesleyan University. He plans to study computer and information Sciences.

**Raelynn M. Feinauer**, Merrill, graduating from Lost River Jr/Sr High School, will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to attend Klamath Community College. She plans to study health information and medical records.

**Ryan Douglas**, Klamath Falls, graduating from Henley High School, will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to attend Oregon Institute of Technology. He plans to study pre-veterinary studies.

**Valeria Reyes Moreno**, Malin, graduating from Lost River Jr/Sr High School, will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to attend Oregon Institute of Technology. She plans to study psychology. Reyes Moreno will be the first in her family to attend college.

“I am incredibly grateful for the support and encouragement this scholarship provides as I pursue my academic and career goals. The Earl and Jane Ferguson Scholarship is generous, making higher education more accessible and gives students like me the opportunity to strive toward success,” Reyes Moreno said.

One scholarship recipient opted out of a public announcement.

### **About Oregon Community Foundation**

Since 1973, Oregon Community Foundation has worked to improve the lives of all Oregonians through the power of philanthropy. In 2025, OCF distributed more than \$200 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](http://oregoncf.org).

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