

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2012 PWC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Meet the eight winners of a 2012 PWC Scholarship:

Erin Callahan will receive a **Herman Lyons, Jr. Memorial Scholarship** for \$1500: I could tell you that if you look up the word 'perseverance' in the dictionary, you will find Erin's picture. All kidding aside, I can't wait to meet Erin Callahan. Her spirit and determination will make her a talented air traffic controller one day. While she was earning her Bachelor of Science in Technology, she completed her Commercial pilot, Instrument, and Multi-engine ratings, and participated in several cooperative education jobs that gave her the opportunity to experience many aspects of aviation: ground crew for banner tows, maintenance for a corporate flight department, and airport operations at Bluffton Airport in Ohio. After graduation she planned to take the ATSAT test and apply for the public bid to Cleveland Center. But two months after graduating, she was thrown off a farm tractor while mowing the Bluffton Airport. Her right leg was severely mangled by the machine. She kept her cool, used her cellphone to call a coworker, and got help. She suffered broken bones in her right arm and in three places in her pelvis. She needed many surgeries and skin grafts covering over one-third of her right leg. Well, she persevered. She healed. She relearned how to walk. She got back in an airplane and earned her Certified Flight Instructor's license last July. Having missed the public bid to become a controller, she moved to Pennsylvania and enrolled in Community College of Beaver County, an FAA college-training-initiative (CTI) school (CTI graduates are now the main source of new-hires; they become our next generation of air traffic controllers). She will graduate this August. She teaches Private Pilot ground school and flight instructs on weekends. She is described in her letters of recommendation as thorough, creative, optimistic, and always primed to learn, a "no-risk investment that will pay dividends for many years to come." She spreads her love of aviation through her flight students and her colleagues at school. I imagine that if Herm Lyons were still with us, he would love to meet Erin and award her this scholarship. She has a long career in aviation ahead of her - I have no doubt she will reach her goals!

Rachael Tracey will receive a **Jacque Smith-Burdette Scholarship** for \$1500: Rachael's dad is the Staff Manager at Chicago TRACON; when he brought her to "Bring Your Kid to Work Day" at age nine, it began her fascination with aviation. During her four years of high school, she participated in three sports, played the violin in the orchestra, won math competitions, and volunteered with many organizations, graduating with a 3.96 GPA. In 2010 she enrolled in Lewis University, an FAA CTI school. She will graduate May 2014 with a Bachelor's of Science in Air Traffic Control and a minor in Business Administration. Rachael has continued her volunteer activities in college, becoming a member of Theta Kappa Pi, a sorority that participates in a service project each month. She works part-time, two jobs in summer and on-campus during the school year. Rachael also works with the Lewis University Annual Fund; her work over the past four semesters has brought in thousands of dollars that go towards scholarships for deserving students. The Fund's coordinator writes, "To put Rachael's contribution into context, she raised more money than any other student caller the past two years. We give our scholarships to honest, hardworking, deserving students; no student embodies those characteristics better than Rachael." Rachael's goal is to become an air traffic controller and work her way up in the system. One of her high school teachers writes, "Rachael has my highest recommendation. She is exactly the person you need to keep our skies safe." We will be waiting for you in 2014, Rachael!

Amy Laughlin will receive a **PWC Family Member Scholarship** for \$1500: Amy's mom is PWC's Director of Resources Pamela Brophy - the apple did not fall far from the tree! Amy will complete her Master's Degree in Education this December. By Amy's third year of teaching, she was a School Site council member, a Master Teacher, and a recognized Employee of the Month. In 2008 she was chosen to become a Title One Teacher, leading other teachers. She partners with the police department to help students at risk of joining gangs; is the lead teacher on the Student Intervention Team, helping students in need; she coordinates Reach the Reader, a community outreach effort; she designed and leads an intensive intervention program for grades K-5 which connects the teachers, parents and kids as a team. Her goal is to become a principal, one whose leadership sets the tone for a school. Her philosophy is simple: raise the bar of expectations. Her GPA is 4.0. Her teachers describe her as exemplary, an effective multi-tasker, creative, empathetic, and an active listener. Her school principle writes, "Mrs.

Laughlin's greatest strength is her ability to inspire colleagues and implement change. There are few times in life when you have the opportunity to see someone doing the job they were "made" to do. When I see her in day-to-day interactions with students, parents, and staff that is exactly what I am experiencing."

Patricia Swenor will receive a **Mary McBurney PWC Member Scholarship** for \$1500: Patty joined PWC in 1995 and got right to work: she has served as a board member ('97-'99), conference chair ('99), WATCH editor ('99-'00 and '06-present), Vice President ('00-'01), and President ('01-'05). Since retiring from FAA HQ in 2007, she has been working with the Joint Planning and Development Office (JPDO) with Booz Allen Hamilton. She will complete her Master's Degree in Homeland Security-Geospatial Intelligence this September; so far her GPA is 3.83. Patty has won numerous awards and honors over her long career; in May '05 she received the FAA Administrators Superior Achievement Award in Equal Employment Opportunity, in recognition of her leadership in establishing a mentoring program (a program begun by Technical Women's Organization and then in partnership with PWC) across the nation that provided all FAA employees valuable opportunities to gain skills and knowledge. Patty started taking college courses in 1969. Then she married, and persevered - taking a few classes while working full-time and raising her family - finally completing her B.A. in Communication Studies in 2010. Personally, Patty is active in her community, is a breast cancer survivor, an expert quilter, and she can belt out a song with the best. I could go on and on, but in short, Patty is an intelligent, hard-working, determined, powerful, and compassionate woman. Patty Swenor exemplifies PWC's vision and mission.

Teslyn Korsmo will receive a **Recruitment Scholarship** for \$1000: Networking brought Teslyn to PWC; our Southern Region Director Meagan Garmon grew up in the same town - Skagway, Alaska - and invited Teslyn to our Portland, OR conference. Attending that conference opened up Teslyn's eyes to all the possibilities for women in aviation, and the need for hard work and perseverance to achieve her goals. She began a pattern of service to her community in high school, and continues to volunteer in college. Teslyn attends University of Alaska Anchorage, an FAA CTI school. She has worked part-time with special-needs children; she says, "The experience helped me realize how lucky I am, and what amazing things people can do and overcome in life." Her letters of recommendation describe her as determined, adaptable, and a leader with integrity, who is well respected, compassionate, and caring. Teslyn writes that aviation is in her blood; her mom runs a small air service in Skagway, and the pilots and aviation workers have been part of her extended family.

Heather Hostert will receive a **Recruitment Scholarship** for \$1000: Heather has loved aviation since a young age, and began flight lessons at 14! She earned private pilot upon graduating high school. She then earned a Bachelor's in Education and taught elementary school for two years - but something was missing - she needed to address her passion for aviation. She enrolled in the Air Traffic Control program at Lewis University, an FAA CTI school. This summer Heather will serve an internship at a facility in the Chicago area. She keeps up with her interest in education by tutoring elementary students. After she graduates in December, Heather has set her sights on becoming a flight dispatcher while she waits for the FAA to hire her. Her teachers describe her as knowledgeable, insightful, driven, tireless, well-prepared, and courteous. Heather certainly follows one of her favorite quotes: "A dream is meant to be lived."

Tyler Stooksberry will receive a **PWC Family Member Scholarship** for \$1000: Tyler's parents are both controllers; his PWC member mom Dorothy is a manager at Houston Center. Tyler has been accepted to University of Houston next September. He plans to graduate in 2016 with an Engineering degree; he wants to study either computer engineering or aeronautical engineering, or both! He'd love to become an ATCS just like his parents. Along with perfect attendance awards, Tyler's been a National Honor Roll nominee for all four years of high school, and is in the top 15% of his class with a 4.17 GPA. He has been a Varsity first baseman for three years, volunteers at his church, and makes meals for the homeless twice a month. He has been taking college-level classes during his junior and senior years. Three of his teachers wrote letters that speak highly of Tyler's character and integrity, and describe him as responsible, dedicated, and focused. Tyler's done the groundwork for his dreams, now he's taking on college to help him get there.

Darlee Hart will receive a **PWC Family Member Scholarship** for \$1000: Darlee is the daughter of PWC member Debra Hart, who works at Seattle Tower. She is graduating from high school with honors and has received an 'Admission With Distinction' at Western Washington University. Darlee loves reading and writing; she has had a winning poem published, and is currently writing four books! She has directed a play, lettered in softball, and continues to manage a church store and play in a youth orchestra. She has worked four years for the family business, Hart's Gymnastic Center; she coaches gymnastics and plans and organizes gymnastics camps. She wrote a winning essay on 'Pride In The Military' for the VFW. She volunteers round-the-clock with her church and goes on missions, several of which helped to rebuild after Hurricane Katrina. Her latest mission to New Orleans ends right before our conference begins. She is described as well-balanced, talented, motivated, diligent, honest, compassionate, self-confident and loyal - a young woman of solid character. Darlee excels at leadership in all her efforts. Her goal is teaching high school or college level classes. I hope she keeps us posted after graduation - and finds a publisher for her books!

A huge "Thank You!!" to the 2012 PWC Scholarship Committee: myself; Sandy Holcomb, PWC's Education and Career Development Program Manager; Christine Kooser, FLM at ZKC; Barbara Jackson, AJG-5, FAA HQ; Connie Atlagovitch, PWC's AGL Regional Director; Jacqui Grayson-Whitaker, retired AEA; and Norma Ely, ATM at ADW AFB. If you are interested in the Scholarship Chair position or being on next year's committee, please let me know.