



2014/15

COOL

COLLEGE OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES FOR LIFE

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

ABILENE EDUCATION FOUNDATION



**MOVING
FORWARD**



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LETTER FROM THE COOL TEAM



Christine Curtis-Carr
COOL Program Coordinator
College Advisor

We truly believe we have the greatest jobs - we guide students along the path of college admissions. We walk the path with the students celebrating the victories and finding alternate routes when we encounter the struggles. One thing that does not change is the incredible resilience of the students we work with every day. Something we hear over and over from our first generation students is, "I want to go to college so I can be an example for my younger sibling or family member." We are helping them raise the bar for their families by making college an attainable reality where it was once just a dream.



Amanda Wiskow
Abilene High School
College Advisor

The theme of this year's annual report is "Moving Forward." We are moving forward and saying goodbye to Christine Curtis-Carr as a part of our COOL team because she is transitioning into AEF's Executive Director position. Christine has devoted her heart and soul to the COOL program and it is immeasurably richer because of her dedication. She has taught us all what it takes to be a true servant leader and we look forward to seeing her thrive as the Executive Director. Amanda and LaQuiera will be taking the lead of the COOL program, and Hannah Holmes will be our new advisor at Abilene High School. Hannah earned her bachelor's degree from McMurry University and master's degree from University of Texas at Tyler, both in psychology.



LaQuiera Gantt
Cooper High School
College Advisor

This past year we added a new college advisor to our team. Dustin "Dusty" West took over the ATEMS and Woodson Center for Excellence (WCE) campuses, as well as the IT Coordinator position. He is an Abilene native and earned his bachelor's degree in history from McMurry University. Prior to joining the COOL program, he worked as an admissions counselor at McMurry for two years.



Dustin West
ATEMS & WCE College Advisor
IT Coordinator

We hope you take time to catch up with some of our COOL program graduates at the end of the report. Because of your generosity and support, these students are courageously moving forward and each time realizing their dreams of a college education. We are honored to walk alongside them and are endlessly grateful to you, our donors and supporters, for making this program possible.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



- Presented in almost 65 high school classrooms on topics such as essay writing, college admissions process and financial aid.

- Assisted 569 2014-2015 COOL participants at AHS, CHS, ATEMS and WCE with college admissions process.

- Served 4,700 middle school and elementary school students.

- Held 7th Annual AEF-AISD College Fair at the Abilene Civic Center with over 50 universities represented and 850 students attending from Abilene and the surrounding area.

- Attended the Texas Association of College Admissions Counselors' (TACAC) annual training, Admission and College Counseling Institute, at St. Edward's University in July, which focused on upcoming changes in college admissions.

- Continued to promote COOL on social media through Instagram, Facebook and Twitter which helps to provide important information to a large number of students at once. Follow us @aefcool2.

- Attended the Abilene P-16 Council summit which focused on changes in high school graduation plans and the implementation of the Early College Program at Holland Medical High School.

- Coordinated and led the second 8th grade summer leadership camp - Camp COOL at the Heart of Texas Baptist Camp at Lake Brownwood.

- Helped coordinate "ATEMS Goes to College Day" where the entire student body visited a university for the day to learn about college life, admissions and scholarship opportunities.

- Produced college pep rallies at Abilene elementary schools for 5th graders. The pep rallies introduced the path of college through educational games and skits.

- Assisted the TRiO Program Shot Clinic, providing free vaccines to seniors. All Texas colleges and universities require students to have the bacterial meningitis vaccine in order to register for classes. In an effort to prevent this as being a barrier to starting college, TRiO partners with Care Van Program to provide the bacterial meningitis vaccine, and many others, at no cost to the student, saving up to \$100. Our college advisors promoted and assisted with the event.

- Partnered with Abilene P-16 Council to promote American College Application Day at ATEMS where over fifty students applied for college. Throughout the morning, most of the seniors came to the computer lab and submitted college applications. Our college advisors were on hand to answer questions and help



COLLEGE TOUR

the students to navigate the complex application process. Students were encouraged to take a picture and post it on social media to promote the application day. At the end of the day, close to 50 ATEMS seniors submitted applications to college!

- Partnered with McMurry Financial Aid representatives to present FAFSA workshops for families at AHS, CHS and ATEMS high schools.

- Helped junior student athletes to register for SAT and ACT. Computer labs were reserved several days out of the year to make sure every junior student athlete

in the basketball and football programs had the opportunity to register for the SAT, ACT and the NCAA Eligibility Center.

- Coordinated with college admissions counselors throughout Texas to meet with AISD juniors and seniors about the college admissions process for their respective institutions.

- Attended a College Board update in Lubbock, TX, where the new changes to the redesigned SAT were discussed in great detail.

- Participated in Paradigm Shift training to prepare for Camp COOL and future classroom presentations. This training equipped the college advisors with interactive workshops, energetic icebreakers and team-building strategies.

- Coordinated the AHS & CHS Peer Assistance and Leadership (PALS) classes along with an elementary counterpart (little) from Austin, Martinez and Ward elementary schools

to tour the ACU campus; many visiting a college for the first time.

- Celebrated with two CHS COOL seniors as they were awarded Terry Scholarships through the Terry Foundation. The Houston-based program provided full scholarships to these students.



COOL-PALS TOUR

- Attended TACAC Leadership Development Institute at the University of Texas at San Antonio which provided the opportunity to develop leadership skills and be inspired to use those skills in our roles as college advisors.

- Helped sponsor a girls conference at Abilene Christian University called "Turn Down For What?" which was planned and organized by LaQuiera. She and many of her close friends,

including Amanda, spoke to almost 30 young girls (6th-12th grades) about the importance of being "naturally you." Topics ranged from hair and makeup to health and fitness to women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). They gave a presentation about choosing the right college, including steps the girls could take to achieve their dream of a college education. Each girl received a goody bag, door prizes and a boxed lunch. The conference left the young women feeling proud of who they are and motivated to become leaders.

- Collaborated with Communities in Schools (CIS), a program for at-risk students in Abilene ISD. Communities in Schools refers students who need one-on-one college admission mentoring to the COOL Program. COOL also refers students to CIS who need additional resources outside of the scope of COOL, especially homeless or unaccompanied youth participants. Each year, CIS hosts a special senior celebration luncheon with additional support from the COOL program.



COOL STUDENTS



ATEMS APPLICATION DAY



COLLEGE TOUR

COLLEGE TOURS

Picking the right college is more than just academics. Every student has a different checklist for what they look for in a college. This is why college tours are an essential part of the COOL Program. A key part of deciding which college to go to is finding a good fit. A great way to gain perspective is for students to visit the colleges in person and picture themselves on campus. It's important for our students to be sure their university of choice has everything they need to learn and survive, from motivating coursework to proper housing. A typical tour includes admissions and financial aid presentations, a tour of the campus and dorms, lunch in a campus dining facility and a stop at the bookstore for students to purchase college souvenirs.

One of the highlights of our tours is seeing former COOL participants who are now college students. We contact them in advance to join us and talk with the COOL students we bring on the tour. This gives our current students a chance to ask "real college students" questions.

This year we were able to take our students on an in-depth tour of the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library and Museum on the University of Texas at Austin's campus. The library experience

gave the students an opportunity to not only learn about the former President, but understand the key events that shaped Johnson's Presidency.

During the 2014-2015 school year, we took hundreds of students on 20 college tours, a few to the same school with different participants.

2014/15 CAMPUS TOURS

- Tarleton State University*
- Abilene Christian University*
- Angelo State University*
- University of Texas at Dallas*
- Hardin-Simmons University*
- McMurry University*
- Texas Tech University*
- Baylor University*
- University of Texas at San Antonio*
- Midwestern State University*
- SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf*
- Texas State Technical College-Waco*
- Texas State University*
- University of Texas at Austin*
- Texas A&M University*
- University of Texas of the Permian Basin*
- Western Texas College*



WE GOT IN!

CAMP COOL

Camp COOL is a free opportunity for upcoming freshmen to learn about aspects of transitioning into high school and college, with a special emphasis on what it takes to be a leader in the world. Camp COOL allows incoming, first generation or low-to-middle-income freshmen, who are already leaders at the middle school level, to participate in a wide variety of fresh and engaging opportunities, allowing them to grow and learn.



The COOL college advisors participated in a two-day Paradigm Shift Leadership and Development training to prepare for the camp. Paradigm Shift offers a "teach-the-teacher" training with a focus on creating intentional leadership. The Paradigm Shift consultants used practical leadership and adventure-based models to help the COOL team develop powerful relationships, set goals, create personal responsibility and develop a defined purpose. By the end of the training, each COOL college advisor left equipped with the tools needed to host an effective three-day leadership camp.

The theme of this year's camp was "Unless," which was inspired by Dr. Seuss' book *The Lorax* – "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better, it's not." Our goal with this camp was to not only provide early contact with the college advisors, but to help the students realize they have the power to change their destiny through hard work, making good choices and getting an education.



Camp COOL began the moment the students arrived for departure at Cooper High School. They were greeted with fun games and activities to participate in while the parents completed registration. Once all students were accounted for and good-byes were said, they were off for an exciting three days of non-stop learning and fun.

With this year's camp located at the Heart of Texas Baptist Camp in Brownwood, students were able to participate in real life challenges in the form of a high and low ropes course which demanded teamwork, communication and courage. Many of them took the Leap of Faith, jumping off of a 30-foot-tall telephone pole, trying to catch a trapeze bar. Others walked across a steel cable and zip-lined across the field, sliding down for a very thrilling ride. The mornings were filled with interactive workshops including topics on goal setting, college planning and discovering your strengths, while the afternoons were spent enjoying various water activities including paddle boating, jumping



off a huge air-filled pillow (known as "the blob") and sliding down a 30-foot-long slip 'n slide. For many students, this was their first time at a camp or a lake!

We had the privilege of taking Noah Nighswonger as a junior counselor. Noah was an amazing asset to our camp team. As a recent ATEMS High School graduate and COOL participant, he was a true peer mentor and was able to offer words of wisdom and advice to the campers as they are about to embark on their high school years. Noah challenged the students to think outside the box and to tackle activities where they didn't feel immediately comfortable. He was quick to play basketball with the campers and entertain them while the counselors set up the next workshop or activity. His endless energy and kind heart made him a necessity to our leadership team.

Many of the students broke out of their comfort zones and walked away motivated to be the best leaders they could possibly be. We are excited to see what's in store for these awesome students!



EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

The primary goal of COOL is to encourage and assist students (especially seniors in high school) who will be the first in their families to successfully transition into post-secondary education. COOL also offers several interactive classroom learning workshops for middle and high school classrooms as well as a few select projects for elementary students. This past year our educational workshops reached over 4,700 students in AISD!

COOL College Pep Rallies

COOL hosted "College Pep Rallies" for students at select elementary schools. The rallies provided a fun environment for 5th graders to learn key college terminology and post-secondary education concepts needed to achieve their personal best and to become excited about college! Students played a variety of games, earned prizes and incorporated their college spirit alongside the Abilene High School and Cooper High School cheerleaders and mascots. The college pep rallies focused on the importance of reading, scholarships, grade point average, class rank, ACT, SAT and challenging themselves academically throughout elementary, middle and high school.

COOL College Dreams

For the third consecutive year, COOL continued the classroom presentation "COOL College Dreams." This is an interactive workshop where each student draws a picture of oneself in a career and determines the type of college education required. Students at several campuses and of varying age groups including 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders were able to participate in the activity.

COOL-PALS Partnership

PALS is a mentoring, leadership and community service class where seniors at CHS and AHS serve as one-on-one mentors with elementary students. In partnership with the PALS Program (Peer Assisted Leadership), COOL provided college tours for these high school seniors and their 4th and 5th grader.

The majority of the elementary students had never seen a college campus before and left the experience excited about their futures.



ELEMENTARY PEP RALLY

Create Your College

For the third year in a row, COOL participated in the Business Information Systems classrooms at the middle school campuses using the activity "Create Your College." Eighth grade students created college boards using construction paper, stickers, magazine cut-outs, markers and crayons to create a collage of their idea of a perfect college. At a couple of the middle schools, we also led a goal-setting workshop titled "My Future Goals," which helped the students outline success steps that will lead towards college admission and completion. These workshops were also a wonderful vehicle to promote Camp COOL.

High School Workshops

The COOL team presented numerous classroom presentations and workshops, including all grade levels at CHS, AHS, WCE and ATEMS high schools. A few of the workshops this past year: College Goal Setting, Financial Aid 101, Rocketing Past College Admissions, Essay Writing, Tips and Tricks for First Generation College Students and more.

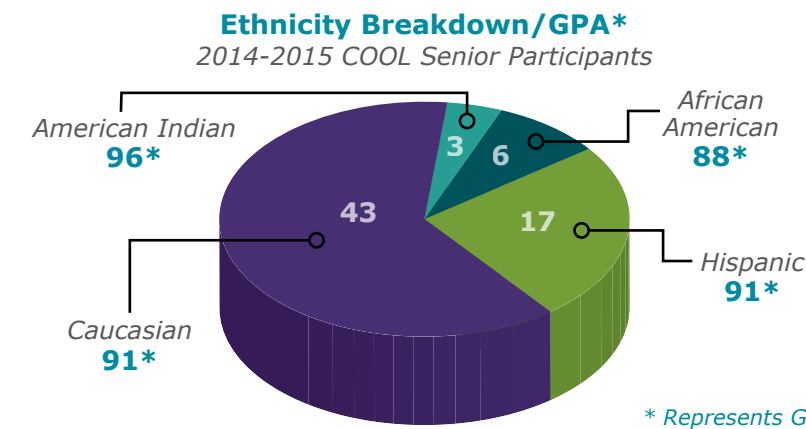
ATEMS

ATEMS STATISTICS

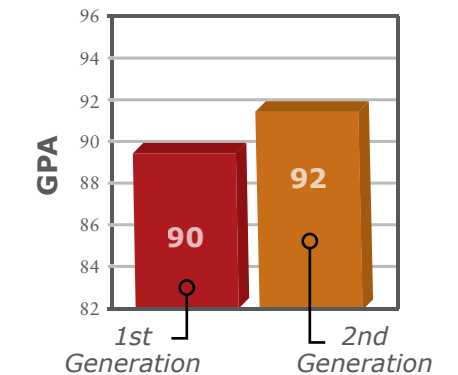
Total ATEMS COOL Senior Participants: 69

1st Generation=42 // 2nd Generation=27

12 (44%) of 2nd Generation students are economically disadvantaged and/or at-risk.



1st and 2nd Generation GPA 2014-2015 COOL Senior Participants



WOODSON CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE

WOODSON CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE STATISTICS

Woodson Center for Excellence (WCE) is an alternative high school for students in Abilene ISD. It is a school of choice offering a self-paced curriculum designed to accelerate a student's education and meet the state and local graduation requirements. Many of the students at WCE campus have the potential to attend college and be just as successful as their counterparts at AHS, CHS and ATEMS. In fact, for the first time in COOL Program history, WCE students attended many of the COOL college tours. The style of college advising differs at WCE because many of the students have family obligations, extreme financial situations or children of their own. Students who attend WCE may not be able to enroll in college right away due to the varied graduation times or other circumstances, so we work with these students to formulate a plan to get them into college as soon as possible. Although the COOL Program makes an effort to work with as many seniors as possible at WCE, this year we actively assisted 79 seniors who are planning to enroll in post-secondary education including college, community college or a certificate program. Some are joining the military and plan to further their education while serving their country.

**Total WCE
COOL Senior
Participants: 79**

1st Generation=64

2nd Generation=15

**100% of Participants
submitted at least one
post-secondary school application.**

**81% 1st Generation and
100% 2nd Generation students
are economically disadvantaged
and/or at-risk.**

AHS/CHS STATISTICS



1ST AND 2ND GENERATION GPA

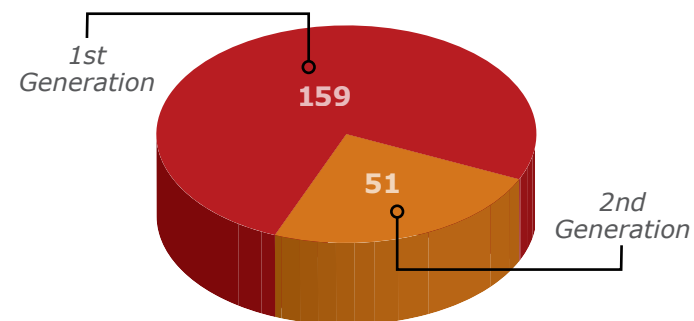
ABILENE HIGH AND COOPER HIGH STATISTICS

1ST AND 2ND GENERATION PARTICIPANTS

ABILENE HIGH AND COOPER HIGH STATISTICS

Abilene High School

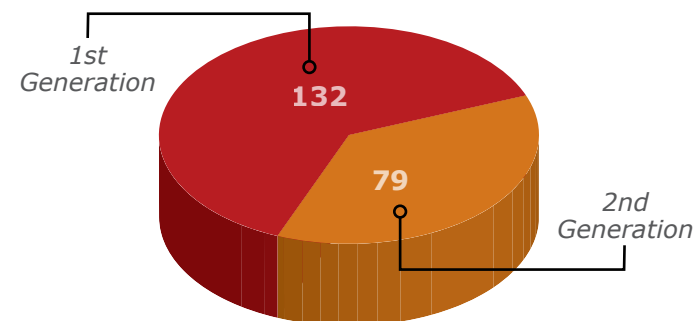
2014-2015 COOL Senior Participants: 210



20 (or 39%) of 2nd Generation students are economically disadvantaged and/or at-risk.

Cooper High School

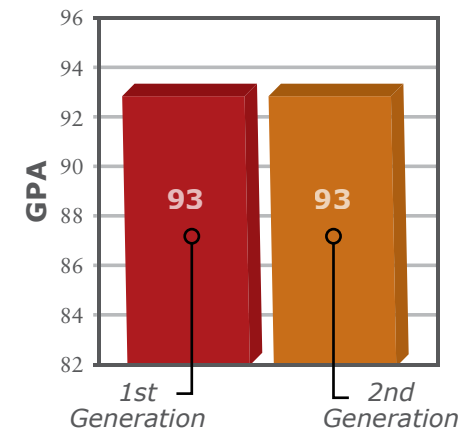
2014-2015 COOL Senior Participants: 211



30 (or 38%) of 2nd Generation students are economically disadvantaged and/or at-risk.

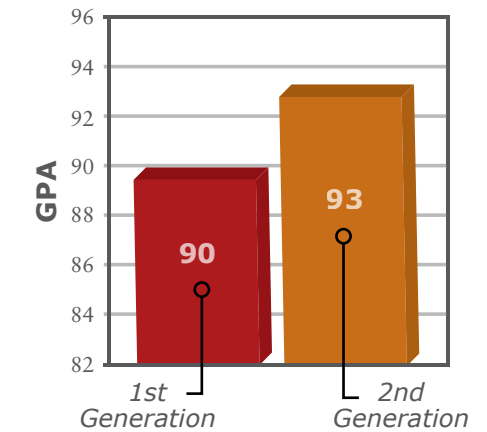
Abilene High School

2014-2015 COOL Senior Participants



Cooper High School

2014-2015 COOL Senior Participants



This chart indicates the overall Grade Point Average (GPA) of COOL Program senior participants for the 2014-2015 school year. Our statistics typically indicate that 1st Generation students tend to have a lower GPA than 2nd Generation students. It is important to note, the majority of 1st Generation students in the COOL Program are either classified as at-risk by AISD or are economically disadvantaged.

ETHNICITY GPA

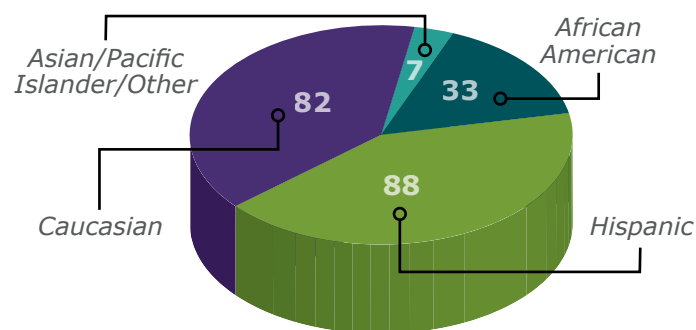
ABILENE HIGH AND COOPER HIGH STATISTICS

ETHNICITY BREAKDOWN

ABILENE HIGH AND COOPER HIGH STATISTICS

Abilene High School

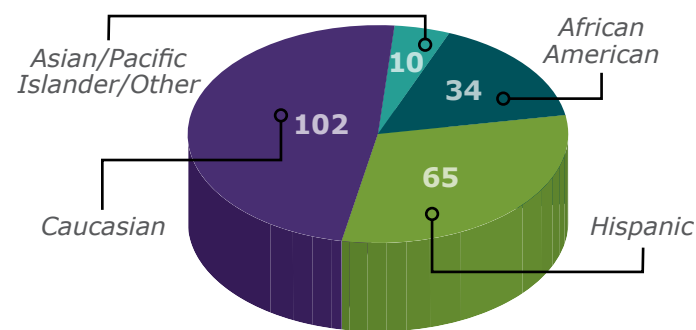
2014-2015 COOL Senior Participants



This chart indicates the different ethnicities of the senior participants in the COOL Program for the 2014-2015 school year.

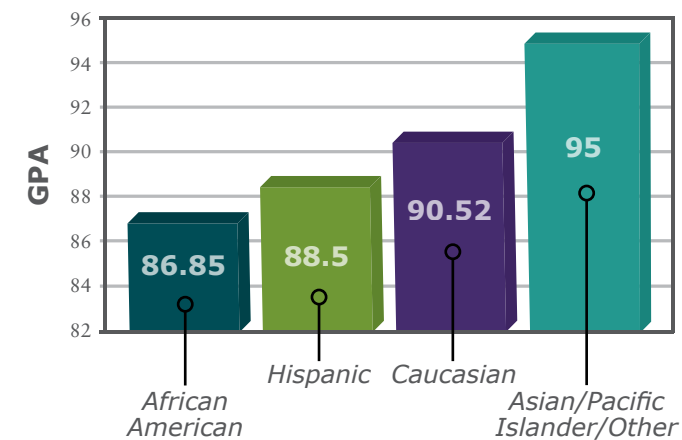
Cooper High School

2014-2015 COOL Senior Participants



Abilene High School

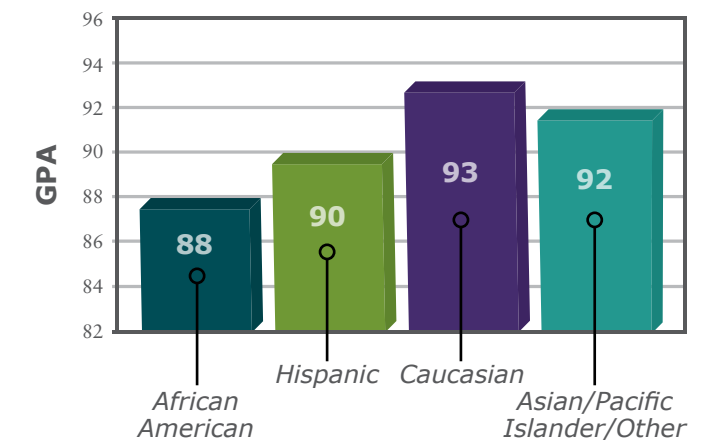
2014-2015 COOL Senior Participants



This chart indicates overall Grade Point Average (GPA) of COOL program seniors for the 2014-2015 school year by ethnicity.

Cooper High School

2014-2015 COOL Senior Participants



AEF SCHOLARSHIPS

In conjunction with Star Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram, AEF acknowledged the 2015 scholarship recipients on Tuesday, May 21, at the Star Dodge showroom. Students received a total of \$67,000 in scholarships. This year we had two new scholarships to award: the Coach John McCabe Memorial Scholarship and the Fishing's Future: The Larry Condra Memorial "Get Outdoors and Go Fishing" Scholarship.

If the AEF scholarship recipient decides to attend Abilene Christian University, Hardin-Simmons University, McMurry University or Cisco College, the institution will match the AEF scholarship amount, within certain guidelines. This makes the dream of attending a local college an attainable option for many of our students. AEF is very appreciative of their enthusiastic collaboration.



Abilene Education Foundation Scholarships

Abilene Education Foundation Scholarships are funded due to the tremendous generosity of the Abilene community at our past Cajun Fest fundraisers. This year the Abilene Education Foundation is pleased to provide one-time \$2,000 scholarships for seven deserving students.

Liam Harlan, ATEMS: University of Texas
Kiley Harris, CHS: University of Texas
Nancy Phan, AHS: University of Texas
Austin Parsons, CHS: Abilene Christian Univ.
Nichalee White, AHS: Abilene Christian Univ.
Lavender Hackman, CHS: University of Texas
Jonathan Shelburne, AHS: Abilene Christian Univ.



AHS and CHS Alumni Endowed Scholarships

AHS and CHS Alumni Scholarship funds are endowed monies that provide scholarship opportunities for the graduating seniors of Abilene High School and Cooper High School. The AHS Alumni Scholarship fund began in 2008 by the AHS class of 1958 and includes donations from the classes of 1943, 48, 53, 55, 57, 58, 59, 60, 63, 64, 65, 93, 95, 96, 2001 and 2002. The CHS Alumni Scholarship fund includes donations from the classes of 1964, 65, 67, 69, 78 and 79. Abilene Education Foundation also contributes to the growth of these funds. Both AHS & CHS Alumni Endowed Scholarships are one-time awards for \$2,000 each.

Heath McCabe, CHS: Baylor University
Brenda Gomez, AHS: Texas A&M University

Donor-Directed: Individual

Each year we have individual donors from the community who choose to invest in the future of AISD students with a scholarship. These one-time awards range from \$500 to \$2,000.

Bailey Griffin, AHS \$500: Auburn University
Alexis Royal, AHS \$500: Abilene Christian University
Sampson Dewey, ATEMS \$750: Univ. of Texas El Paso
Zachary LeFevre, ATEMS \$750: Texas Tech University
Hunter Hawkins, CHS \$1,000: Texas Tech University
Jocelyn Villanueva, AHS \$1,000: Abilene Christian Univ.
Aizelle Gaddie, CHS \$2,000: Univ. of Texas at Austin
Morgan Alcorta, AHS \$2,000: Texas A&M University

Royce Curtis Excellence in Education Endowed Scholarship (AHS only)

During their 20th class reunion, the AHS Class of 1993 announced, to a very surprised Royce Curtis, a permanent scholarship fund which will help future Eagles reach their goals of a college education. The endowment was established by graduate Bracken Kolle and his wife, Joana. Royce served as the AHS principal for 14 years and as the AISD associate superintendent of personnel for seven years until retiring in 2010. The Royce Curtis Excellence in Education Endowed Scholarship is a one-time award for \$2,000.

Kaitlin Alcantar, AHS: University of Texas

Johnny Ortega, Jr. Memorial (AHS only)

The Johnny Ortega, Jr. Memorial Scholarship is provided by Mary and Juan Ortega, Sr. in memory of their son Johnny Ortega, Jr. who passed away in February 2011. Johnny was a 2006 graduate of Abilene High, an active duty soldier of the U.S. Army from 2007-2011 and an avid runner. While at Abilene High, Johnny participated in cross country. To honor his memory, this scholarship is for an Abilene High male senior who has participated in varsity athletics and is a one-time award for \$1,000.

Graham Watson, AHS: Texas Christian University

"My Heroes Have Always Worn Hairnets" Scholarship sponsored by the School Nutrition Association of Abilene

The AISD school nutrition staff has raised funds every year to award two deserving seniors with a scholarship to a college of his or her choice. The school nutrition department, which includes the cafeteria servers who feed the students at our schools both breakfast and lunch every day, hold fundraisers throughout the year to raise money for this award including silent auctions, luncheons and bake sales. The two School Nutrition Association scholarships are for \$3,000 each, payable at \$1,000 per year over three years, pending a minimum GPA of 2.5.

Alyssa Brooks, CHS: University of Arizona
Ryan Ware, AHS: Blinn College

Citizens Bank of Abilene

The Citizens Bank of Abilene is committed to building strong and enduring relationships

with their customers and in the community. This scholarship is \$1,000 for two students.

Anthony Matthews, CHS: University of Texas
Ronnie Thomason, AHS: McMurry University

Abernathy Scholarship (CHS only)

Jeff and Shawna Abernathy, owners of Abilene Auto Glass and Red Apple Realtors, believe in the power of higher education. Just as someone helped them, they also have a desire to help a rising young Cooper student reach his or her dream of a college education through the gift of a scholarship. This scholarship is a one-time award of \$500.

Aimee Lara, CHS: University of Texas at Austin



BreLex Memorial Scholarship

The BreLex Memorial Scholarship is in memory of two young AISD students who passed away in April 2012: Breanna Camacho and her cousin and close friend, Elexus Flores. The scholarship was established for a student at both Cooper and Abilene High who will be first in his or her family to attend college. The two BreLex Memorial Scholarships are one-time awards for \$500 each.

Ryan Garmoe, AHS: Hardin-Simmons University
Leticia Alcantar, CHS: Abilene Christian University

Michele Scott Memorial Scholarship (AHS only)

Michele Scott was a remarkable friend, person, coach and teacher. She had an incredible personality and influenced all with whom she came into contact. In fact, some of the funds from this scholarship were directly raised by her students. This award celebrates her life by awarding a one-time \$500 scholarship. This scholarship is sponsored by AISD employees.

Cambrey Jones, AHS: Hardin-Simmons University

AEF SCHOLARSHIPS

Coach John McCabe Memorial Scholarship (AHS only) NEW!

Coach John McCabe devoted himself to a 46-year career in teaching, coaching and mentoring high school students. He was known as a history teacher and football/track coach with an enthusiasm for helping students reach their highest potential. For many years, Abilene hosted the "John McCabe Big Country Relays" as a tribute to the impact he made on students and athletes. Although he received many honors during his career, one of his most valued was the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors of the Texas High School Coaches Association. This is a one-time \$500 scholarship to a student athlete at AHS who exudes the Eagle spirit and possesses a love of learning. Scholarship funded by AISD employees.

Autumn Royal, AHS: Abilene Christian University



Cougar Nation Scholarship (CHS only)

"Rise Up" is the official motto of Cooper High School. The Cougar Nation scholarship is for a student who exemplifies what it means to be a Cooper Cougar, both in school pride and academic excellence. This scholarship is for two students and is a one-time award of \$1,000 each. Scholarship funded by AISD employees.

Abby Fortson, CHS: Abilene Christian University
Chelsey Medina, CHS: Texas State University

The Rising Phoenix Scholarship (ATEMS only)

The Rising Phoenix Scholarship is in honor of Zach Church, a young man who graced this world for only a brief nine years. It is in his spirit that the Rising Phoenix Scholarship was started. This scholarship recognizes a student who has overcome adversity and shares Zach's love of education. It is a one-time award for \$500.

Vivian Devora, ATEMS: Abilene Christian University



Meta Alice Keith Bratten Foundation Scholarship (AHS only)

Meta Alice Keith Bratten graduated with the AHS class of 1943. She was active in Personality Girls, Pep Squad, The Battery, Glee Club and G&G Club (a club just for senior girls at Abilene High and meant "The Gang"). These awards are for two AHS students and are \$6,000 each. They are granted over a period of four years, pending a minimum college GPA of at least 2.5.

Mario Gomez, AHS: Abilene Christian University
Joshua Hernandez, AHS: Texas Tech University

Fishing's Future: The Larry Condra Memorial "Get Outdoors and Go Fishing" Scholarship (AHS only) NEW!

Larry Condra lived in Abilene for 33 years. He taught at Abilene High School where he led the Peer Assisted Leadership Program and was also very active with the Association of Texas Professional Educators. He was an avid fisherman and dove hunter. Retiring from education in 2010, he spread his love for the outdoors by volunteering and teaching in several

areas with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Fishing's Future. Fishing's Future is an organization committed to providing opportunities for families to engage each other via an educational family-oriented fishing activity. This scholarship is provided by Fishing's Future and is a one-time award for \$1,000 to an AHS student who will pursue a major involving plant, recreation or other outdoor field-related work.

Luis Carrisalez, AHS: South Plains College

Young Masters Juried Art Exhibition Scholarships

In collaboration with The Grace Museum and Abilene Independent School District, the goal of the Young Masters exhibition is to celebrate young master artists (enrolled in Advance Placement art courses) and their dedicated teachers with a quality museum exhibition. The 2015 Young Masters event was held on April 2 and the winners were recognized at that time. The winners of the competition receive a one-time scholarship to the college of their choosing which vary in amount.

Karla Vazquez, Junior, AHS, Honorable Mention \$500
Elaina Meissner, Junior, AHS, Honorable Mention \$500
Victoria Martin, Junior, CHS, Honorable Mention \$500
Alex Guerrero, Senior, CHS, Honorable Mention \$500
Jacie Barber, Junior, AHS, Honorable Mention \$500
Zequiang Zhu, Junior, AHS, Merit Award \$750
Kaylee Waigand, Senior, CHS, Merit Award \$750
Kylie Villa, Senior, CHS, Merit Award \$750
Kylee Washington, Senior, AHS, Third Place \$1,000
Mati Bonneau, Junior, AHS, Second Place \$1,250
Jazmyn Turner, Junior, CHS, First Place \$1,500
Jazzmine Romero, Soph., CHS, Best in Show \$2,500



2014-2015 COOL SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

As the cost of education continues to rise, the need for scholarships is greater than ever. As College Advisors, we stress the importance of submitting scholarship applications in anticipation of gaps in financial aid. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, students are able to meet this challenge head-on by receiving scholarships from civic organizations, foundations, individual donors and educational institutions which include athletic and merit-based awards.

The COOL program is pleased to announce ATEMS, AHS and CHS 2014-2015 senior participants received \$5,269,180 in scholarship money to be used over a four-year period! This amount does not include traditional financial aid opportunities such as federal and state grants.

COOL Senior Participants

1st Generation: \$2,858,525

2nd Generation: \$2,410,655

SENIOR PARTICIPANT UPDATE

The COOL Program, using the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) database, has been able to track individual COOL senior participants after high school graduation. A large majority of COOL senior participants enrolled in a post-secondary institution after high school and all were accepted to at least one college of their choice. There were a wide variety of reasons why some of our participants chose not to pursue a post-secondary education. Some students joined the military or made personal choices which caused them to enter the workforce or postpone enrollment. Percentages of COOL participants who enrolled in a post-secondary institution after high school graduation has remained steady at around 80% since the program's inception in 2007-2008. Although the percentage has remained fairly consistent, as the COOL program grows the actual number of students who enroll after high school should continue to increase regardless of the percentage.

The actual number of COOL senior participants who enrolled in post-secondary education directly after high school is listed below. Please note these numbers only include students we could verify through the NSC or personal contact.

ACTUAL NUMBER OF COOL SENIOR PARTICIPANTS ENROLLED IN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION DIRECTLY AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

2008-2009:	220
2009-2010:	258
2010-2011:	280
2011-2012:	261
2012-2013:	393*
2013-2014:	391*

* In these years, there were four full-time COOL Program college advisors and services at ATEMS and Woodson Center for Excellence high schools.

It has been five years since the 2009-2010 COOL senior class enrolled in college and four years since the 2010-2011 senior class first began their college journey. We are pleased to report the following information on our graduates, our students still enrolled and those who, although they did not earn a degree, did earn some college credit. It is our sincere hope for those who have postponed their education that they will one day return to complete their degrees. We seek out these past COOL graduates in an attempt to encourage them to re-enroll by providing assistance and guidance to further their post-secondary education options.

COOL Class of 2009-2010

- **258** — Enrolled in post-secondary education directly after high school.
- **27** — Enrolled in post-secondary education more than a year after high school.
- **235** — Graduated from college or are still enrolled.
- **30** — Earned some college credit, but not a degree.
- **20** — Earned some college credit, but we are unable to verify their current enrollment status.

COOL Class of 2010-2011

- **280** — Enrolled in post-secondary education directly after high school.
- **215** — Graduated from college or are still enrolled.
- **32** — Earned some college credit, but not a degree.
- **33** — Earned some college credit, but we are unable to verify their current enrollment status.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The COOL Program would like to thank the following community partners for their support.

- Shelton Family Foundation
- Dian Graves Owen Foundation
- Abilene Independent School District
- • •
- Abilene Christian University
- Azle Education Foundation
- Carver Youth Council
- Cisco College
- Community Foundation of Abilene
- Dodge Jones Foundation
- First Financial Bank
- Hardin-Simmons University
- Hispanic Leadership Council
- Kiwanis Club of Abilene
- McMurry University
- P-16 Council
- Star Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram
- Talent Search
- Texas Association for College Admissions Counseling
- Texas State Technical College: West Texas





Abilene Education Foundation

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