

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

---

### Gulf Winds Credit Union

For more information, contact:

**Pola Young, Director of Community Engagement**

Office: 850.542.2166

Email: [Pola.Young@gogulfwinds.com](mailto:Pola.Young@gogulfwinds.com)

---



## **Gulf Winds Foundation Awards up to \$45,000 in Scholarships to Five Members**

**Pensacola, Florida (May 26, 2026)** – The Gulf Winds Foundation is proud to announce that it recently awarded up to \$45,000 in scholarships to five outstanding student members: Myiah Alverson, Ellie Nissim, Sarah Schultz, Colton Rollin, and Emma Grayce Fuqua. Each recipient will receive a renewable scholarship, including four awards of up to \$10,000 and one award of up to \$5,000, to support their educational pursuits and aspirations.

This year Gulf Winds received 62 completed applications for the program from a diverse group of students. Open to members of Gulf Winds Credit Union, recipients were selected through a competitive process that evaluated each application on academic accomplishments, community involvement showcasing a desire to make impact, personal essays, letters of recommendation, and financial need.

“At Gulf Winds, we believe that education has the power to transform lives, families, and communities,” said Daniel Souers, President and CEO. “We are proud to recognize these outstanding students who have demonstrated that they dream big and look forward to seeing the positive impact they will make in their communities and beyond.”

Since 2007, Gulf Winds has been committed to supporting students in their higher education journeys, having awarded \$342,500 in scholarships to 80 students. The scholarship program is one of the many ways that Gulf Winds advances its mission of helping its members and communities succeed financially.

### **Meet the 2026 Scholarship Recipients**

#### **Myiah Alverson – Incoming Higher Education Scholarship**

With aspirations of becoming a neonatal nurse, Myiah is majoring in Nursing at the University of Alabama this fall. Inspired by her own sister’s experience with a congenital disease, Myiah has a passion for making a difference in the lives of others. Her academic excellence at Flomaton High School is complemented by dedication to community, demonstrated by her involvement in multiple local groups including the Leo Club and Atmore Area Chamber of Commerce Youth Ambassador program. Myiah also thrived in cheerleading, with two recognitions as an All-American Cheerleader and placing twice with her team at regional tournaments.

#### **Ellie Nissim – Incoming Higher Education Scholarship**

This fall, Ellie is set to embark on her journey at Florida State University, where she will pursue her passion for International Studies. Inspired by the 2016 Rio Summer Olympics and her time with the Gulf Coast Youth Diplomats, Ellie has a passion for connecting cultures with diplomacy. Her academic excellence is evident through her numerous Student of the Year and honors societies awards. Beyond academics, Ellie has demonstrated leadership as a Class Senator in the Student Council and commitment to community service with the Pensacola Area Reform Temple Youth and Camp Dream Street, where she volunteers to offer care for children with cerebral palsy and epilepsy.

#### **Sarah Schultz – Incoming Higher Education Scholarship**

From a young age, Sarah was passionate about music and singing. Growing up in Brewton, Alabama, Sarah recognized the need for local mentorship in the arts at higher levels. Now pursuing a degree in Music in Vocal Performance at Samford University, she is determined to return to Brewton to offer support and lessons as local youth pursue their own futures in the arts. An outstanding student and active member of her community, she has excelled in multiple AP courses, served as Vice President of the National Honors Society, and annually contributed to multiple local events including Brewton’s Super

Fun Day and Vacation Bible School.

### **Colton Rollin – Rex Burt Trade Scholarship**

Influenced by his brother's career as an Apprentice for Alabama Power in Mobile, Colton is following in his footsteps and pursuing a career as a Lineman. He plans to attend Bishop State in the fall for their State Lineman program. While attending Flomaton High School, Colton was recognized as an Academic All Star for all four years. Beyond his academic pursuits, Colton demonstrated leadership through his involvement in multiple sports including basketball, golf, and tennis. He is committed to engaging in his community from serving a few years as a peer helper to actively participating in the Little Escambia Baptist Church Youth Group.

### **Emma Grayce Fuqua – Micah Williams Memorial Scholarship**

Emma Grayce is pursuing a degree in Nursing at the University of South Alabama, driven by her passion for being a leader in her community. Since she was a young girl, Emma Grayce felt a calling to become a nurse. She aspires to serve on hospital boards to be a voice for her community's medical needs. Emma Grayce has excelled academically throughout her educational career and has participated in multiple collegiate groups including the Blue Key Honor Society and Alpha Omicron Pi. Additionally, she spends time volunteering at Wilmer Hall, a home in Mobile that provides residential, educational, and transitional support for children and young adults in need.

### **About Gulf Winds Credit Union:**

At Gulf Winds Credit Union, we believe financial success is the foundation for stronger communities. Since 1954, we've helped members move forward with confidence—providing innovative solutions, certified financial coaching, and a deep commitment to the people and communities we serve. With 12 branches, more than \$1.3 billion in assets, powerful digital tools, and a nationwide network of surcharge-free ATMs, Gulf Winds delivers the reach of a major financial institution with the heart of a local partner. Together, our team of 260+ employees are unlocking financial greatness across North Florida, Southern Alabama, and Southern Georgia. See how we're making an impact at [GoGulfWinds.com](https://www.gogulfwinds.com).

###