**AAUW Tarrant County Branch**

**Scholarship Recipients 2017-18**

**Margaret Davis** had long thought about becoming a teacher, but just never acted on it. When her co-Girl Scout troop leader commented on how well she interacted with the children in the troop, she decided that teaching just might be her calling. She enrolled in TCC’s AA/Teaching degree coursework, diving in with much enthusiasm. Through her co-leader she was introduced to administration at a small Christian private school where she was given a job as a part-time aide; she has also served as a substitute – being in the classroom has validated her decision to earn her teaching degree. Following the completion of her degree at TCC she will transfer to Texas Wesleyan University to pursue an Early Childhood-Sixth Grade Generalist bachelor’s degree. Margaret remembers teachers who saw potential in her when others did not…she wants to be “that” teacher for students who need a “champion” in their lives, someone who will provide encouragement and moral support. She and her husband have three children and their finances are tight while she is in school. Margaret is grateful for this valuable scholarship that provides much needed support. Margaret states, “A scholarship may be just money to some, but to me, it will be a down payment on the future—for myself, my own children, and all those amazing kids that someday will learn from me. They will learn never to give up, to do their best, and to learn from their mistakes. They will learn that they are more than a grade and that who they are matters. They will leave my classroom knowing that they can make a difference by being kind, appreciative, and responsible. Thank you for investing in a promising future that will carry on a legacy of positive influence for generations to come.”

Dear Donor,

Thank you for choosing me. Words cannot express how grateful I am. What I can tell you is that this scholarship is not only helping me financially but give me hope that my goals can be obtains. This scholarship also means that someone else sees potential in me and make me even more determined to finish this journey.

Again, thank you for picking me!

Humbly,

Margaret Davis



**Chelsea Ragland** has been involved in music for most of her life. She and her husband have three young children, and Chelsea is juggling the care of them, her participation in their church’s music program and her school work – and she’s earned a 4.0 GPA in the courses she’s taken to date. Chelsea likes to quote Plato: “I would teach children music, physics, and philosophy; but most importantly music, for the patterns in music and all the arts are the keys to learning.” Following Plato’s advice, Chelsea is earning an AA in Teaching Degree at TCC before transferring to earn a Bachelor’s Degree in music and a teaching certificate. Her goal? To become a high school band director, sharing her love of music and performance with students. The Ragland’s household is a single income one, and finances are very tight. “When I learned I was a recipient, I immediately called my husband so we could celebrate together…this is a blessing for our family,” she states.

Dear Donor,
This scholarship means so much to me and my family. This scholarship allows me to attend school without the financial burden that comes along with attending. I will be able to purchase all of my supplies that is needed to be a music student at TCC, This scholarship also helps me get one step closer to my career goal. When I graduate in 4 years I will be able to teach music anywhere in the state of Texas. Reaching this goal is so important to me because I believe that music is a very important part of a child’s education. It teaches hard work, discipline, teamwork, and determination. These important life lessons are the very same ones that were taught to me. So, thank you from the bottom of my heart for allowing me to receive this wonderful scholarship.

Thank you,
Chelsea Ragland

**<<<<scroll down for third recipient>>>>**

**Jason Moden** is the recipient of the AAUW Tarrant County Branch STEM Scholarship, and he could not be more excited! “Receiving a scholarship of any kind is a honor which I take great pride in receiving, states Jason. “What makes this scholarship even better is that it is a STEM scholarship, being recognized in the field of study I am working in is a huge honor.” Since Jason was a young child he has loved animals…all kinds and all sizes. He has carried his passion forward through his volunteer work with the White Settlement Animal Shelter, International Exotic Animal Sanctuary, Fort Worth Nature Center and Dallas Zoo. He has many goals for his future career, but his first goal is to get the chance to work with many exotic animals at the zoo. Jason plans to earn an associate degree at TCC and then continue to Tarleton University to earn a Bachelor’s Degree in Wildlife Biology. “From there I want to work as a field zoologist, helping to learn about the ecosystem around the world,” explains Jason. “I hope to be in a position where I can educate communities around the world about animals and how they can help protect the environment. In a sense I want to be an ambassador for wildlife to people from all walks of life.” Jason works part-time to help provide financial assistance for his mother and sister. Finances are strained with his educational expenses, but he plans to persevere until his educational goals are met. “Receiving this scholarship is a sign that my hard work to succeed in college is paying off…I am grateful!” he writes.

Dear Donor,

I cannot thank you enough for this scholarship you are so generously offering me, it means a great deal to me to be considered for such a honor. They are so many other great students that could have received this award, some probably even more deserving than me for this award. From this perspective I am so grateful for this award. I will use this to help prepare me for the future by giving myself a firm foundation on which for me to continue to succeed in college. This will help me greatly in achieving my collegiate goals. It will ease the burden off my shoulders, as it will allow me to easier pay for my materials in college. It will allow me to not have to worry as much about the bills I have to pay in my life, giving me more time to concentrate on my school work. Like a ripple effect this will give me a better chance at success in college which will give me a better chance of success in my life.

Again thank you very much for this honor.

Sincerely,
-Jason