SCAC recently awarded scholarships to five high school seniors planning to attend a South Carolina college or university, or two-year technical college in the fall.

Each year, SCAC awards a $2,500 scholarship to a graduating high school senior who is a resident of the same county as that year’s SCAC president.

SCAC also awards four $2,500 scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are residents of counties chosen by lot. Counties selected in the 2019 draw were Chesterfield, Fairfield, Georgetown and Orangeburg.

**SCAC’S 2019 Presidential Scholarship Winner**

McCormick County

SCAC awarded its 2019 Presidential Scholarship to T’Laysha C. Creswell of McCormick High School in honor of SCAC President Charles T. Jennings (McCormick County Council Chairman). The daughter of Sojourner Jennings and Ernest Norman of McCormick, she was ranked first in her class and plans to study engineering at Clemson University.

Creswell, a South Carolina Junior Scholar, was president of the National Honor Society, and served as student ambassador for the South Carolina High School League for the past three years. She received the Matt Hardy’s Foundation All-Around Student Award and Augusta University’s African-American Achievement Award. She also served as captain of the varsity basketball team and as a JROTC officer.

Her volunteer service includes working with the Backpack Blessings and Rise Against Hunger programs, as well as the McCormick County Voter Registration and Elections Office.

**SCAC’s 2019 Board of Directors Scholarship Winners**

Chesterfield County

SCAC awarded a 2019 Board of Directors Scholarship to Genna K. Rivers of Central High School. The daughter of Anthony and Rhonda Rivers of Pageland, she plans to study nursing at the University of South Carolina.

 Ranked first in her class, she served as secretary of the Fellowship...
ship of Christian Athletes and as captain of Central High School’s Academic Math, Social Studies and General Knowledge Teams. Rivers volunteers with Union Symphony Society and is first violin in the Union Symphony Youth Orchestra. She also assists with Allegro Strings.

**Fairfield County**

SCAC has awarded a 2019 Board of Directors Scholarship to S. Grier Hensley of Richard Winn Academy. The daughter of Guerry and Kay Hensley of Winnsboro, she plans to study civil engineering at Trident Technical College and The Citadel. Ranked first in her class, Hensley was Student Government President and an active member of the Beta Club. She also served as the Student Government Secretary and as a member of the school’s varsity volleyball team.

She is the owner of Sunflower Sweets and Treats Bakery, and a member of Greenbrier Methodist Church.

Her community service includes volunteering for Lake Wateree State Park and Bethel Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Winnsboro.

**Georgetown County**

SCAC awarded a 2019 Board of Directors Scholarship to Taryn L. Sparkman of Georgetown High School. The daughter of Johnell and Tarsha Sparkman of Georgetown, she plans to study biology at Winthrop University.

Sparkman was Student Council Senior President and an active member of the Health Occupations Students of America, Mu Alpha Theta, and Interact Club. She was also a section leader for the Georgetown High School Gospel Choir, co-captain of the school’s cheerleading squad, and a member of the track and field team.

Sparkman volunteers with Special Olympics. She also participates in the Bethel A.M.E. Youth Choir and the Premier Community Drumline.

**Orangeburg County**

SCAC awarded a 2019 Board of Directors Scholarship to Takayla A. Hart of the High School for Health Profes-
The daughter of Craig and Lakeska Hart of Orangeburg, she plans to study nursing at the University of South Carolina Upstate.

Hart was active in Future Business Leaders of America, and a member of Health Occupations Students of America, the National Society of Black Engineers, the NAQT/Quiz Bowl and Debate Team, and the National Honor Society. She also participated in Palmetto Girls State and served as a Student Ambassador.

Hart received the 2018 Orangeburg Consolidated Schools and Calhoun County Consortium of the Arts Outstanding Artist award. She volunteers helping those in need at the Samaritan House, the Fill-In Station, the Back to School Bash, and ASCEND.

SCAC’s Scholarship Selection Committees met in the spring to evaluate applicants for the Presidential Scholarship and the four Board of Directors scholarships. Each applicant was required to complete and submit an application, and to write an essay on his/her aspirations and goals. Scholarships were awarded based on essays, grades, school activities and community involvement.

**SC RIA Approves Grants to Strengthen Water, Sewer and Stormwater Infrastructure**

The S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) has approved grant assistance for 26 communities, totaling more than $12 million, to strengthen water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure. This brings the number of projects awarded to 54 in Fiscal Year 2019, totaling $25.7 million.

Whether it’s upgrading aged water or sewer lines, rehabilitating elevated storage tanks, improving a downtown’s drainage infrastructure or extending water and sewer lines to industrial parks in an effort to attract new industry, these grant awards will have a significant impact on the 58,102 residents and businesses that they serve.

**Grant Application Deadlines**

RIA grants are awarded twice a year through a competitive process that considers the need for improved public health, environmental protection, community sustainability and economic development. Grant application deadlines are: Sept. 9, 2019, for Round 1, and March 16, 2020, for Round 2.

Applications are selected by the RIA board based on criteria, including: severity of the problem, expected impact and project feasibility. Recipients share in the cost of projects by paying for non-construction activities and, often times, providing additional funds for construction.

To learn more about RIA or how to apply for grant assistance, visit [www.ria.sc.gov](http://www.ria.sc.gov).
Did you know that complaints filed with the State Ethics Commission are confidential unless and until probable cause is found by the Commission?

Should you choose to file a complaint, you are not permitted to discuss the existence of the complaint until you are notified by mail that probable cause has been established. Should a complaint be filed against you, you are not allowed to discuss the complaint until you are notified by mail that probable cause has been established or you waive confidentiality in writing to the Commission.

You can learn more at Section 8-13-540 of the Ethics Reform Act.

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