Goodnight Scholars Program Class of 2026 Scholarship Recipients

Finalists listed alphabetically first by county, then last name.

**Ashe County**

**Joel Robinson** will graduate Ashe County High School, where he was involved in Beta Club, Student Council, Mu Alpha Theta, Campus Crusade for Christ, as well as the Varsity Tennis and Cross Country teams. He is also involved in his local church and was a member of the junior division of Toastmasters International. Joel is a dual citizen of the United States and New Zealand. He plans to major in civil engineering at North Carolina State University.

**Bladen County**

**Sydney Gardner** will graduate from East Bladen High School where she served as the president of Student Government and was involved in various other clubs such as FFA, HOSA, and BETA Club. Sydney was a member of the competitive dance team at Amy's Academy of Dance Arts where she also assisted in teaching classes. She will graduate from Bladen Community College with an Associate in Science as well as an Associate in Arts degree. Sydney plans to major in biological sciences with hopes of becoming a veterinarian.

**Brunswick County**

**Fiona Evans** will graduate from South Brunswick High School where she was the president of her high school's Interact chapter and National Science Honor Society. Fiona was an AP Scholar with Distinctions and a 3-year HOSA State Leadership Conference finalist. Fiona was also a leader in her district's Teen Court and a varsity soccer captain. Fiona plans to major in biological sciences.
Buncombe County

Willamina Ingle will graduate from North Buncombe High School where she was the captain of the Varsity Cross Country team, the president of her school's Beta Club chapter, and the captain of the Mock Trial team. Willamina also served as a Peer Mentor to incoming freshmen at her school and volunteered with Asheville Greenworks, a local environmental organization. Willamina plans to major in biochemistry.

Theodore Nguyen will graduate from Enka High School where they were the editor-in-chief of Journalism, secretary of Key Club, and was the president of the Photography Club. Theodore was also involved in the National Honor Society, Math Club, and Ecology Club. Theodore Nguyen plans to major in engineering.

Caldwell County

Abigail Braswell will graduate from West Caldwell High School where she was Senior Class President, Beta Club President, and FFA Vice-President. Abigail was also involved in Varsity Cheerleading all four years. Abigail plans to major in animal science.

Catawba County

John Miller will graduate from the North Carolina School of Science and Math, where he was a Residential Life Assistant. John was also involved in mentorship and was captain of the baseball team. Outside of school, John helped teach summer camps focused on robotics and engineering. John plans to major in applied mathematics.

Columbus County

Ashleigh Stocks will graduate from Whiteville High School where she was a North Carolina Scholar, junior marshal, and member of the National Honor Society. Ashleigh served as senior class vice-president of Student Council, president of HOSA, and captain of the varsity soccer and varsity tennis teams. Outside of school, Ashleigh is a youth member of Piney Forest Baptist Church where she teaches children's church, and is a World Changers Mission volunteer. Ashleigh plans to major in biological sciences with a human biology concentration.
Cumberland County

**Alysha Blake** will graduate from Massey Hill Classical High School where she was an AP Scholar with Distinction and chief marshal for the Class of 2022. Over the course of four years, Alysha served as a mentor for elementary and high school students as she tutored them in both English and math. She was also a captain for the Varsity Soccer team at her home school and attended NC Governor’s School as a Natural Science attendee in 2021. She plans to major in aerospace engineering.

**Laiya Davis** will graduate from Cumberland International Early College High School where she was part of the Science Olympiad and National Honors Society. She also held leadership positions in the Fayetteville Cumberland Youth Council throughout her high school career. Laiya was also involved in music and looks forward to continuing learning. Laiya plans to major in civil engineering.

**Chloe Israel** will graduate from Fayetteville Academy where they were president of the National Honor Society, vice-president of their class, and captain of the Varsity Basketball team. Chloe was also involved in Key Club, Latin Club, Latin Honor Society, Mock Trial, and the Track and Field team. Chloe was one of the first members of the Beta Chapter of Rho Sigma Omega, the National STEAM Honor Society. In 2021, Chloe also attended NC Governor's School for Natural Science. Chloe plans to major in computer science.

**Ethan Patten** will graduate from Cross Creek Early College High School where he was involved in Beta Club, the Academy of Scholars, and the Varsity Golf team. He was also a junior marshal, a STEM tutor, the captain of the Science Olympiad team, and the treasurer of Interact Club. At Fayetteville State University, Ethan is involved in Computer Science research under NASA’s M-Star grant and was on the Chancellor’s List. Ethan plans to major in mathematics.

**Devin Roberts** will graduate from Cross Creek Early College High School where he was involved in the Science Olympiad, Beta Club, and the Academy of Scholars. Devin was also a STEM tutor, the Interact Club advisor, and a class representative in the Student Government Association while working at CVS Health. Devin was awarded the Quest for Excellence National STEM Award and attended NC Governor’s School for Mathematics. Devin plans to major in electrical engineering.
Dare County

Kate Hamilton will graduate from First Flight High School where she was involved with the school newspaper, Student Government, and the National Honors Society. Kate Hamilton participated in the Environmental Club, and Dance club, and has danced at dance studios for fifteen years. Kate Hamilton plans to major in elementary education.

Durham County

Brianna O'Briant will graduate from Josephine Dobbs Clement Early College High School where they were on the robotics team Code Eagles, the Science Olympiad, and Minorities in Medicine. Brianna was also involved in NCCU research organizations such as PREM and CREST NSAM-ML. Brianna plans to major in mechanical engineering.

Forsyth County

Holly Albright will graduate from East Forsyth High School where she was Woodwind Captain of the Blue Regiment Marching Band and received the Leadership in Woodwind Award. She was also involved in the National Honor Society, the National Technical Honor Society, and served as Secretary of Key Club. Holly plans to major in environmental engineering.

Makayla Destafino will graduate from the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics where she was the captain of several dance teams, and the leader of Body Banter: a support group encouraging conversations on body image and mental health. Makayla also conducted award-winning research in the Astrobotany Lab at Winston-Salem State University. Makayla plans to major in plant biology.

Zeeshawn Hasnain will graduate from Atkins Academic and Technology High School where he led the Atkins Marching Caravan as a drum major for two years. He was secretary of the Tri-M Music Honor Society chapter, a member of the Track team, and a member of the Academic Team. Zeeshawn also participated in the Technology Student Association, where he competed in the Software Development event for two years and qualified for the national conference both years. Zeeshawn plans to major in computer science.
Gaston County

Mark Petrilli will graduate from Kings Mountain High School where he was a member of the Varsity Men's Tennis Team, the National Honor Society, Beta Club, and Career-Technical Education Honor Society. Mark also served as a senior patrol leader in Boy Scout Troop 100, and was a mentor at Aces for Autism, a tennis camp for autistic children. Outside of school, Mark enjoys 3D printing and designed and built his own wind tunnel out of cardboard. Mark intends to major in aerospace engineering.

Greene County

Ariana Infante will graduate from Greene Central High School where she was involved with the marching band, STEM Society: STEM Ambassadors, and the National Honors Society. Ariana was also involved in the Music Honor Society, Student Government, Future Health Professionals, and AmeriCorps: STEM-Core East. Outside of school, Ariana was heavily involved in her church where she taught Sunday School to kids ages 7-9. Ariana enjoys traveling and hopes to study abroad while at NC State. Ariana plans to major in chemistry and join the NC State marching band.

Guilford County

Anthony Bell will graduate from Western Guilford High School where he is in the AP Capstone Program, the dual enrollment program at Guilford Technical Community College. He was the president and founder of the Drone Robotics Club at Western Guilford High School, a member of the National Honor Society and Debate Club, and a volunteer at a local senior independent living community. Anthony also worked over 20 hours a week at two part-time jobs while attending school. Anthony plans to major in electrical engineering.

Kiran Khan will graduate from Ben L. Smith High School where they were the Valedictorian and Senior Class President. Kiran was involved in Volleyball, Softball, Student Advisory Council, the National Honors Society, and Student Government. Kiran plans to major in either biology or zoology.
Harnett County

Rebekah Hope Sharpe will graduate from Harnett Central High School where she was a student director of the auditioned Vocal Ensemble, student speaker in the Fellowship of Christian Students, and a Junior Marshall. Hope also participated in her high school's Cross Country team, Beta Club, and Young Political Activists Club. She was an active member and leader of her church’s youth group and worship team. Hope plans to major in elementary education.

Haywood County

Andrew DelBene will graduate from Tuscola High School where he was a team captain for the Cross Country and Swim teams and a member of the Track and Field team. Andrew was also a member of the Math Club and National Honor Society. Andrew was involved in Fellowship of Christian Athletes through the FCA Leadership Team and the FCA Praise Band as a vocalist and acoustic guitarist. Andrew plans to major in aerospace engineering.

Jonah Ottie will graduate from Tuscola High School where they were a section leader in the marching, symphonic, and jazz bands. He was selected as an All-District Band euphonium player and received the Haywood Regional Medical Center Top Academic Band Scholar Award. Jonah was a member of the National Honor Society and Math Club and was an athlete on the Tennis and Swim teams. Jonah plans to major in mechanical engineering.

Hoke County

Amber Locklear will graduate from SandHoke Early College High School in May 2022. She was the president of Mu Alpha Theta, a member of the Science National Honor Society, and served on the Student Advisory Council. She enjoyed volunteering at the Carolina Horse Park, as well as Habitat for Humanity. Amber plans to major in aerospace engineering at NC State.
Iredell County

Matthew Pugliese will graduate from the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics where he tutored in mathematics, was a member of the chess club, and played racquetball. Matthew also volunteered at FeedNC, a soup kitchen dedicated to helping residents in his hometown. He also tutored middle and elementary school students in math and other STEM subjects at his home high school. Matthew plans to major in electrical engineering.

Jackson County

Patrick Cardona-Cosner will graduate from Jackson County Early College where they were vice president of the National Honors Society, president of the Cooking Club, and member of the Debate Club. Patrick was also a Calculus and English tutor in the Learning Assistance Center at Southwestern Community College, co-leader of Catman 2 Forest Hills Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Program, and volunteer at the Balsam Mountain Preserve Nature Center. Patrick plans to major in environmental science.

Maia Wilde will graduate from Smoky Mountain High School. There she participated in cross country, track, and Science Olympiad. Maia was also captain of the Battle of the Books team and co-president of her school’s Interact Club. Maia plans to double major in environmental science and political science.

Johnston County

Madison Pullium will graduate from Corinth Holders High School where she was a student council executive, student spirit section leader, National Honor Society member, and a circle of friends member. Madison was also involved in youth group, an assistant coach to a middle school volleyball team, and a head coach to a travel volleyball team. Madison plans to major in middle grades math education, with science option.
Lenoir County

Geneva Kate Benson will graduate from Lenoir County Early College High School where she serves as Vice President of Scholarships for Phi Theta Kappa, Lenoir Community College Representative, and SGA President. She leads a weekly Bible study group for teens, volunteers with Paws4people, lifeguards for a local pool, and does competitive dance and cheerleading. Kate plans to major in animal science with a concentration in veterinary bioscience to later utilize this degree as an animal physiotherapist.

Lincoln County

Deana Poteat will graduate from East Lincoln High School where she was the captain of both the varsity women's soccer and swim teams and president of the National Honor Society. Deana was also involved in the Science National Honor Society, National Beta Club, Mu Alpha Theta, Rho Kappa, and Student Government Association. Deana plans to major in animal science.

Madison County

Mason Stimach will graduate from Madison Early College with an Associate in Engineering Degree where he was president of the Engineering Club and was vice-president of the Physics Club. He was also a member of the National Honor Society and a student tutor. Mason plans to major in aerospace engineering and physics.

Martin County

Javian McMillan will graduate from Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience where he served as the President of FFA and the National Honor Society. He was also involved in the Prepared Public Speaking Competition in which he advanced to the state level and placed second in North Carolina his junior year. He plans to in major in animal science and aims to be a veterinarian.
Mecklenburg County

Zoe Glover will graduate from South Mecklenburg High School as a member of the Chinese World Language Magnet Program. She is a Charlotte Post Top Senior who was involved with her school’s soccer team, jazz band, National Math and Science Honor Society, and National Beta Club. Zoe was also involved with Google’s Code Next Connect program, the Wake Forest College Launch program, and various local community service organizations. Zoe plans to major in mechanical engineering.

Michelle Valeria Rayo-Solano will graduate from Harper Middle College High School where she served as vice president of the National Honor Society, reading tutor for Sterling Elementary, German and Spanish language representative for the Language Club, and mentee in CPCC’s Positive Community for Women. She is also a computer technician at Eliminate the Digital Divide, volunteer for the South Boulevard branch of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Libraries system, and a pharmacy technician and certified immunizer at her local Walgreens. Valeria plans to major in microbiology.

Nash County

Roberto Juarez-Vera will graduate from Nash-Rocky Mount Early College High School where they were involved in National Honor Society, on the Principal’s List, and obtained a Platinum Level certification from the ACT WorkKeys Assessment. Roberto was involved in Nash Community College’s High Altitude Balloon Team having worked as a programmer for their balloon’s payload and competed with other community colleges. Roberto has also performed STEM outreach for students in underdeveloped elementary schools. Roberto will have earned associate degrees in engineering and science. Roberto plans to major in aerospace engineering.

Randolph County

Alexander Scruggs will graduate from Southwestern Randolph High School where he served as the Interact Club president, student body treasurer, and a varsity baseball player. Alex was also involved in 4-H Club, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Boy Scouts, where he achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Alex plans to major in electrical engineering.
Emanuella Tran will graduate from Providence Grove High School where she was founder and president of her school's Science Club. She was also involved in a local leadership organization called Student LIFT, the National BETA Club, her local animal shelter as an active volunteer, and served as the drum major for the marching band. Emanuella plans to major in environmental science.

Robeson County

Ashton Sumpter will graduate from Lumberton Senior High school where they were the captain of their varsity soccer team, and vice president of Beta Club. He was also involved in a community emergency response team that responded to numerous local natural disasters over the past 4 years. Ashton plans to major in engineering.

Rutherford County

Brynna Glover will graduate from CHASE High School where they were senior class president, cheerleading captain, and a Science Olympiad school committee member. Brynna was also involved in Beta club, Project Unify, Quizbowl, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and the swim team. Brynna plans to major in biological sciences.

Union County

Rex Colvard will graduate from Union Academy where he found an interest in STEM through AP courses, volunteered with NewGen Peacebuilders on two peace projects, and tutored math and science through Mu Alpha Theta. Rex was also involved in high school varsity athletics before he transitioned to compete in powerlifting. Rex plans to major in chemical engineering.

Wake County

Ayush Kumar will graduate from Green Level High School where he was involved as President of Student Council and DECA. Ayush was also involved in the American Mathematics Competition, Science Olympiad, and National Honor Society. Ayush plans to major in chemical engineering.
Afzaa Mujibur Rahman will graduate from Research Triangle High School where she served as the president of Science Olympiad, Mu Alpha Theta, National Art Honor Society/Art Club, La Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica, and the Muslim Students’ Association. Afzaa was also involved in community service, being an executive officer for National Honor Society. She will also graduate from the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics Online Program, and served as a student ambassador of both high schools. Afzaa plans to major in biomedical engineering.

Rishik Rajasekhar Pavani will graduate from Panther Creek High School where he was vice president of technology of the CyberCatamounts, the cybersecurity club. He scored a perfect score on the ACT and was selected as a candidate for the 2022 United States Presidential Scholars Program. He was one of eighteen 2021 National Cyber Scholars from North Carolina. He plans to major in computer science.

Salena Price will graduate from Garner High School. She was a member of NTHS, TSA, NHSDA, RDU's A.C.E. Program, and senate. She also served as the captain of the Dance Team, founder of the Robotics Club, and treasurer of BETA. She won the NC District D.A.R. “Good Citizen” Award and is certified in Quantum, Python and AutoCAD. She was involved in robotics, tutoring, mentoring, teaching STEM programs, and started a nonprofit for seniors’ health and wellbeing. Salena will major in electrical and computer engineering.

Bruno Rosa will graduate from Apex Friendship High School where they served as build captain of Science Olympiad, vice president of the Computer Hardware Club, member of the Academic Quiz Team, and member of the French National Honors Society. Bruno was also involved in the local community through volunteering with the production team at Hope Community Church, the local Rotary International chapters, and has worked as a graphic design intern for a local IoT company. Bruno plans to major in aerospace engineering.

Diya Shah will graduate from Panther Creek High School where she was co-founder and co-president of the Medical Careers Club. Diya served as the community outreach coordinator for the NC chapter of Teens Tutor Teens. She is employed as a Pediatric Nursing Assistant. Diya plans to major in biological sciences with a concentration in human biology.
Kimberly Tomczak will graduate from Broughton High School where she was the drum major of the Broughton Marching Band, as well as a member of the Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Winter Percussion Ensemble, and Pit Orchestra. She was also the president of the Student Actions For the Environment Club and a Girl Scout Ambassador. Kimmie plans to major in STEM education.

Yadkin County

Kaleb Harrison will graduate from the Yadkin Early College High School where they participated competitively in FTC Robotics, Quiz Bowl, Math Counts, and Chess club. Kaleb was also involved in Music club as a novice guitarist and National Honor Society as the vice president of his school's chapter. Kaleb plans to major in physics.