



Sarasota Classified Teachers Association

"An Independent Labor Union Dedicated to the Professional Well-being of ALL Sarasota County Schools Employees"

Sarasota Teachers Association awards \$3,000 in college scholarships

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SARASOTA – The Sarasota Classified/Teachers Association has helped six students pay for college with \$500 scholarships.

Three future students at the University of South Florida, two who will be attending Florida State University, and one headed to the University of Florida received the scholarships, awarded by SC/TA annually.

"We try to help students pay for their tuition, because we know every dollar helps," said Pat Gardner, president of the SC/TA.

More than 100 people applied for the scholarships, which are open to any public or private high school graduate, or higher education undergraduate, whose parent or guardian is an SC/TA member. Association members pursuing higher education can also apply for the scholarships.

Applicants also had to demonstrate they are currently enrolled, or have been accepted, at an institution of higher learning. The six winners were chosen randomly.

The scholarship winners are Zachary Carroll, attending the University of Florida; Justin Cohen and Haley Stuart, headed to Florida State University; and Kalene Duke, Mindy Long, and Stephen Longo, all preparing to attend the University of South Florida.

Two of the six annual SC/TA scholarships are named after beloved former association members who passed away in 2010.

The Linda Thornton Scholarship, awarded to Duke, is named after a creative writing teacher who taught for 10 years at North Port High School and 35 years overall throughout Sarasota schools.

The Jon May Scholarship, given to Carroll, is named after a former social studies and economics teacher at Sarasota High School who also served as the SC/TA's representative in Tallahassee for 13 years.

The SC/TA works for high salaries and good working conditions for all Sarasota County public school employees, sponsors several community service programs annually, and provides ongoing professional support through classes, workshops, coaching and training.

To learn more about the SC/TA, go to www.sctaonline.org or SC/TA's Facebook page, titled Sarasota Classified/Teachers Association. Or, contact Gardner at 941-922-9022 or gardnerpat@comcast.net.

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