



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Seven Alaska Students Among 108 Student Leaders Honored with  
Pride Foundation Scholarship Awards totaling \$438,000**

**SEATTLE, WA**— Today, Pride Foundation announced scholarships to 108 students from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington totaling \$438,000—the largest total award in the organization’s history. Seven students from Alaska were awarded a total of \$24,500 in scholarships.

Pride Foundation is the largest source of scholarships to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) students in the country. These scholarships, which range from \$3,000 to \$14,000, seed the next generation of leaders in the LGBTQ community and support remarkable students who are engaged in a range of studies that will benefit the LGBTQ movement and the world.

Students supported include:

**Jillian Saxton-Moody** of Fairbanks is pursuing a PhD in public health with the goal of eliminating youth suicide in Alaska.

**Heni Barnes**, a geological engineering student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, dreams of playing a role in the science and space fields, while also representing the LGBTQ community and people of color.

**Miles Willis** from Central will major in mathematics and minor in film/photographic arts. Miles co-founded his high school’s Gender and Sexuality Alliance.

“These scholarships provide vital support to students who have often had to overcome enormous hurdles, both cultural and financial,” said Pride Foundation CEO Kris A. Hermanns. “I look forward to seeing their impact on our community and our world and I am thrilled that Pride Foundation has the ability to provide substantial support to enable these students to achieve their dreams.”

Since its inception in 1993, Pride Foundation’s scholarship program has awarded more than \$4.8 million to 1,292 individual scholars.

Recipients are leaders in the LGBTQ community and they either currently live or grew up in the Northwest. This year’s scholars hail from every corner of the region – from North Pole, Alaska to Kalispell, Montana, and Sherwood, Oregon and include native peoples from the Blackfoot and Cherokee nations, students of Irish, Jamaican, and Korean ancestry, as well as Latino/a/x and

African American students, and refugees from the Middle East who now call the Northwest home. Their ages range from 17 years old to nontraditional students in their 50s.

The scholarship has proved life-changing for students like Jillian Saxton-Moody who is currently working as a mental health clinician supervisor and completing her PhD dissertation. “My continued education will enable me to not only have more impact at the government level, but also provide more research for validation to continue efforts to improve lives for LGBTQ+ individuals, and in particular, reducing the astronomical suicide rate in our region.”

The press and members of the public can meet these inspiring Alaska students at a public event on Friday June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm, at Hotel Captain Cook, 939 W 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Anchorage. Register to attend the event [here](#).

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Founded in 1985, Pride Foundation is a regional community foundation serving Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Its mission is to inspire giving to expand opportunities and advance full equality for LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer) people in the Northwest. Learn more at [www.pridefoundation.org](http://www.pridefoundation.org).