



PRESS RELEASE

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**31 Oregon 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. Thirty-one students from Oregon were among those honored. They received a total of \$142,750.

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:

Lexi Bergeron is one of the first openly transgender women to be accepted to a national sorority—Kappa Alpha Theta. Lexi is from Lake Oswego and is pursuing a degree in psychology at the University of Oregon.

Jackson Morgan grew up in Sisters, Oregon and is now attending the Oregon Institute of Technology with plans to become a nuclear engineer.

Ryan DePauw, a first-generation college student who has experienced homelessness and struggled with addiction, is attending Portland Community College with the intention of becoming a speech pathologist.

“These scholarships provide vital support to students who have often had to overcome enormous hurdles, both societal and financial,” said Pride Foundation CEO, Kris A. Hermanns. “I look forward to seeing their impact on our community and our world, and I’m 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. It is the largest scholarship program for LGBTQ

students in the country. The scholarship program grew even larger this year after Pride Foundation merged with Oregon's Equity Foundation, strengthening the LGBTQ regional network and expanding opportunities for students, organizations, and leaders in the Northwest.

Scholarship recipients are leaders in the LGBTQ community, and they either currently live or grew up in the Northwest. Pride Foundation scholars hail from every corner of the region—from North Pole, Alaska, to Kalispell, Montana, to 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.

These scholarships have proven to be life-changing for students like Ryan DePauw, "I hope to give back to the services that have so graciously been given to me and have ultimately saved my life."

The press and members of the public can meet these inspiring students from Oregon at a reception from 5:30 to 7:30 pm on Thursday, June 1st at the Jupiter Hotel, 800 E Burnside Street, Portland. 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.