Congratulations to 2018-19 SEA educational scholarship and professional development award winners

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11/22/2018

DID YOU KNOW?: If all employees donated just $1 per month (just $12 a year), SEA could increase its awarding capabilities by about $4,000, and more scholarships could be awarded to more employees.

Twelve members of USU's Staff Employee Association earned educational scholarships and professional development awards this fall semester, to help them further their educational and professional goals.

The educational scholarship, a $1,000 award split over two consecutive semesters, is meant to financially help SEA members attending USU pay for their degree. Six employees were selected based on the following criteria: financial need, GPA, and essay about their professional/academic goals. Melia Balls, Robert Llewellyn, Braxton Fitzgerald, Jeffery Fowler Stout, Henry W Clinger, Shelbi Guillot were all awarded a scholarship.

Henry Clinger, who is an area coordinator in the education cluster of Facilities, was awarded an educational scholarship. He has a degree in Animal, Dairy, with an emphasis in Veterinary Sciences-Bioveterinary Science. His future goals include applying to veterinary medicine programs in the summer of 2019.

"I hope to be accepted into the WIMU program here at USU, Clinger said. "After finishing vet school I plan to work at a clinic in the valley and eventually start my own business."

Six other SEA members received financial assistance to attend a professional development conference or workshop. The professional development award covers half the cost of registration fees for a conference or workshop related to an employee's professional development up to $500. It is awarded in conjunction with departmental funds. Employees were selected based on the following criteria: financial need, legitimacy of conference/workshop, and relevance of the conference/workshop to the employee's current professional role. The six recipients of the professional development award were Arthur Young, Richard W. Jewkes, Betsy Clark, Kaylee Roholt, Cameron Mix, Erin Donahoe-Rankin. Kaylee Roholt, an Academic Adviser with CAAS, has a Master of Science in Psychology with an emphasis in school counseling. Roholt said she loves attending conferences and working on committees. As a recipient of the professional development award, Roholt explained why she why applied for the award.

"Professional development opportunities light my fire," she said. "They remind me why I come to work each day. Engaging with professionals in various areas of higher education make me a better employee and person in general."

Art Young, Director of Financial Aid at USU said he was "very grateful" to receive the professional development award. It helped cover costs associated with his service as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA). Having ongoing professional associations is necessary for the USU Financial Aid Office, Young said, because it helps him stay current on federal regulations and industry standards.

"Being involved on a national level strengthens our office and positions us to better serve the university and our students," he said.

Thanks to the donations from SEA members, more than 173 employees and/or their family members have been awarded over $60,000 in scholarships since 1989. If you would like to help continue the success of improving the lives of others you can donate to the SEA Scholarship Fund easily by setting up a tax-deductible donation through payroll-deduction.

Betsy Clark is another benefactor of donations from SEA members. Clark is an investment and endowment accountant in the Controller's office at USU with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. Clark explained how her award allows her to continue doing what she loves.

"I have been in this position for 14 years and I love what I do and all the people I get to work with across campus."
If you're interested in continuing your education or further developing yourself in your career, don't let financial concerns stand in your way. Consider applying for the educational scholarship or the professional development awards for 2019-20. Applications open in mid-December and will be open until March 29, 2019. Click to see past recipients from previous years.