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GAWDA Awards \$20,000 to 10 College-Bound Students

Since 2013, GAWDA has awarded \$94,000 in scholarships

HOLLYWOOD, Florida – The Gases and Welding Distributors Association (GAWDA) awarded \$20,000 in college scholarships to 10 high school students from across the U.S. who are planning to study programs applicable to careers in the industry.

GAWDA annually awards the scholarships as a way to help educate, attract, and keep quality individuals in the welding and gases distribution industry, said John Ospina, GAWDA executive director. The announcement of the awards was made at the Association's annual spring management conference, held April 2 – 5 in Savannah, Georgia.

A total of 47 scholarships have been presented, representing \$94,000 in educational assistance funds, since the program's inception in 2013. The program is designed to educate, attract, and keep quality individuals in the welding and gases distribution industry, according to Ospina.

Named as 2016 scholarship recipients are:

- **Douglas Bolinger**, of Pierceton, Indiana, who is attending Ferris State University
- **Kallie Booth**, of Boise, Idaho, who is heading to Boise State University
- **Coby J. Dyches**, of San Angelo, Texas, who will be attending Angelo State University

- **Lucas Harder**, of Naperville, Illinois, who is heading to Albion College
- **William John Kirchoff**, of Eagan, Minnesota, who plans to study at the University of St. Thomas
- **Hallie McClintock**, of Galena, Ohio, who is attending Oklahoma State University
- **Dana Morgan**, of LaPorte, Texas, who is heading to San Jacinto College
- **Shawn Soris**, of Aurora, Illinois, who plans to study at St. Norbert College
- **Ellene Cansada Tanner**, of Braselton, Georgia, who will attend the University of North Georgia
- **David Zumbrun**, of Hixson, Tennessee, who plans to attend the University of Tennessee.

Contributing to the scholarship fund this year are sponsor GAWDA members: Airweld, Inc., Atlas Welding Supply Co., Inc., AWISCO, Cameron Welding Supply, Holston Gases, Inc., Minneapolis Oxygen Company, O.E. Meyer Company, Oxygen Service Company, South Jersey Welding Supply, Inc. and Welders Supply Company-Raimy Corporation.

Applicants must be an employee of a GAWDA member organization or the child of an employee of an active GAWDA member company and meet other eligibility requirements.

For more information about how to contribute to the scholarship fund, or for details about program eligibility, visit: <http://www.gawda.org/resources/gawda-scholarships-program/>.

GAWDA stands for the Gases and Welding Distributors Association. Formerly known as the National Welding Supply Association (NWSA), GAWDA represents more than 500 small to very large welding equipment and industrial gas distributors, as well several hundred manufacturers, suppliers, and service providers to the welding and industrial gas industry. GAWDA's mission is to promote the safe operation and economic vitality of distributors of industrial gases and related welding equipment and supplies. For more information, visit: www.gawda.org.