



CATAWBA COUNTY

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Department of Social Services

PRESS RELEASE/PSA

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SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS HONORED BY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Statistics show that only 7 – 13% of students who received foster care enroll in higher education. On June 17, the Catawba County Board of Social Services had the privilege of congratulating three scholarship recipients who are beating this statistic.

In May of this year, three students applied for, and will receive, scholarships from the Gretchen Peed Scholarship Fund. John Mallett, 2008 valedictorian of the Newton-Conover Health Science High School has been accepted to Brigham Young University and will receive \$500 toward his tuition. Alescia Caldwell will receive \$500 and has been accepted at Pensacola Christian College. Kellie Auton will receive \$250 and will be attending Western Piedmont Community College.

The Gretchen Peed Scholarship Fund was established to honor Mrs. Peed's contributions to the field of child welfare in her role as chair of the Board of Social Services, as a member of the Catawba County Board of Commissioners, and as an active citizen fully contributing to the community's responsibility to strengthen families and meet the needs of children. Funds from the scholarship are made available to any child who is or has been in the legal custody of Catawba County Social Services. The scholarship is available for any post-high school education program.

Members of Board commended the students for their hard work and dedication to furthering their education.



Then Social Services Board Chair, Anne Wepner, (center) congratulated Gretchen Peed Scholarship winners John Mallett (left) and Kellie Auton. The third scholarship winner, Alescia Caldwell, was unable to attend the event.