



## **JAMES TORKAR EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

**W**e are pleased to announce that our 2016-17 Educational Scholarship application period is now open. This program benefits the children of NTOA members and provides funding for tuition and other eligible expenses through an IRS 529 College Savings Plan or a direct payment to the educational institution.

Past scholarship winners tell us over and over how the support of the NTOA was invaluable. We are proud to have been a part of their paths to success and continue to strive to contribute more to the families of our members. Here are the stories of several of our past recipients.



Adam Cassell and Capt. Marc Cassell

### **Adam Cassell — 2015**

As a winner of the James Torkar Educational Scholarship, I have been empowered to pursue both my short- and long-term educational and career goals. Thanks to the scholarship I was able to live on campus and finish my freshman year at the University of Nevada, Reno with straight A's and a confirmed passion in my studies, which was a promising start to completing my computer science and engineering degree.

I look forward to continuing this path and finding a career that uses my technical knowledge to contribute to society in a meaningful way. My determination to have a career that truly benefits people is an inherited trait. I have seen the impact of my father's police work in making my community a safer and better place to live. I am excited to pair my passion for technology and my family's tradition of leadership in public safety to make the world a better place.



Adam Cunningham and Sgt. Robert Cunningham

### **Adam Cunningham — 2010**

The NTOA scholarship was very helpful in achieving my educational goals. It helped me pay for my senior year at Ohio State University, where I pursued a degree in education for grades 7-12. The scholarship helped me acquire my teaching degree. I was hired in 2014 at East Technical High School in Cleveland, Ohio, where I teach social studies to ninth, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders.

Growing up with my father in law enforcement greatly influenced my career goals. I did not pursue a career in law enforcement but I knew that I wanted to be in a career where I could help people on a daily basis. That's one of the major reasons that I chose education as my field.



Gracie Carver-Dews and Officer Richard Dews

### Gracie Carver-Dews — 2015

I started pursuing my bachelor's degree in computer science at Xavier University in the fall of 2014. I have grown to love the field I chose to major in, but because Xavier is a private university, I have had to work very hard for scholarships in order to continue my education there. Most of my scholarships were obtained my senior year of high school, but my sophomore year, I had trouble finding available funding. My adoptive father, a member of the Cincinnati Police Department, discovered the opportunity for the NTOA scholarship. I was fortunate enough to be awarded the scholarship and have since then utilized the funds to the fullest at school. This year, I chose to focus on software engineering. With the funds awarded to me and encouragement from both my parents, I hope to graduate a year early and grow my skill set as a software engineer.



Sgt. Fred Farris and Ellen Farris

### Ellen R. Farris — 2013

Having financial support from generous organizations like the NTOA allowed me to attend a private university and study to become a nurse. At the University of St. Mary, I studied for a bachelor of science in nursing, played four years of collegiate soccer, and was able to stay close to home. I graduated in the spring of 2016 and began my career as an ER nurse.

My decision to become a nurse was influenced by several factors, and growing up in a law enforcement family was definitely one of them. I believe service is in my DNA, so choosing a career that allows me to help those in need was an easy decision. I was raised in a family that isn't afraid to run toward crisis to lend a helping hand. I have watched the actions of my family members who have been in law enforcement, especially my father, and I have learned how important it is to do the right thing even when no one is looking.



Rhianna Marchand and Lt. Sean Marchand

### Rhianna C. Marchand — 2015

I have always looked up to my dad. He has been a police officer since I was born, and for as long as I can remember I have witnessed the heart and dedication that goes into police work. It is thanks to my dad that I, too, want to pursue a career in law enforcement, even if my path is a little different from his. I plan to become a forensic evidence technician and eventually a criminalist. The James Torkar Educational Scholarship has helped me begin my higher education and set me on a clear path to achieving my career goals. With the help of this scholarship, I plan to earn a certificate in forensic science in addition to an associate degree, after which I plan to pursue a bachelor's degree. I am incredibly grateful to the NTOA for providing opportunities to students like myself. With it, I have been able to kick start my plans for the future and get that much closer to reaching my goals.

## NTOA EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Heather Sandefur and Officer Dana Sandefur

### Heather C. Sandefur — 2015

The NTOA scholarship helped support my educational goals by providing a way for me to attend college. The past two years I have attended the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and have maintained a 4.0 grade point average each semester. I pay for my education on my own, so I was able to attend college this past school year without having to pay the full tuition thanks to this scholarship. Without this assistance, I would not be able to pursue my lifelong goal of becoming a nurse.

Growing up with a family member in law enforcement influenced my career choice by making me want to help others and provide care for people. I will start another phase in this plan when I begin the nursing program in the fall of 2016 at UTC. I would not have been able to get to this point if it were not for this scholarship.



Cmdr. Jeff Selleg and Mackenzie Selleg

### Mackenzie Selleg — 2013

I received the NTOA scholarship going into my freshman year of college, and it has really helped me by paying some of my tuition and allowing me to become more involved on campus and in the community. I am now going into my senior year at Washington State University, double majoring in criminal justice and human development, minoring in political science, and certifying in adolescent studies. In my time here at WSU I have worked as a residential adviser, orientation counselor, and for the Office of Admissions. I have participated in the WSU Sociology Club, Pi Beta Phi Sorority and the WSU Prison Debate Project. I also spent a semester as an intern doing video surveillance for the Pullman Police Department and have been working for over a year as an undergraduate research assistant in the Department of Human Development on a project that aims to decrease rural food insecurity.

I believe that growing up in a law enforcement family instilled a passion in me to want to serve and make a difference in people's lives. This semester alone I have done more than 180 hours of community service in different locations and I plan on continuing to promote change on the WSU campus as well as the Pullman community in my final year. I am so grateful for the support from the NTOA and am trying to use this scholarship to its fullest potential. You all impact lives every day, and thanks to your support I am able to make a difference as well and will continue working to create change.

## NTOA EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

This program provides college funding for tuition and other eligible expenses. Scholarships may be awarded directly to an educational institution or to an IRS 529 College Savings Plan.

Scholarship amount: \$2,500 each | Application deadline: April 1, 2017

[ntoa.org/educational-scholarships](http://ntoa.org/educational-scholarships) | 800-279-9127



SA Anthony Teal and Sydney Teal

### **Sydney Teal — 2012**

The James Torkar Educational Scholarship helped me go to an out-of-state school that is ranked in the top 10 for my field of study. During my undergraduate career, I majored in public safety management and minored in criminal justice at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). I was involved in many student organizations, even acting as president for a student organization. I completed various internships within my field of study, including at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department; and the Indiana State Fair Safety and Security Office.

I was accepted into IUPUI's Accelerated Master Program for a master of science in criminal justice and public safety. On May 8, 2016, I graduated from IUPUI with my bachelor of science in criminal justice with highest distinction. I now have one year left in the master's program, and will graduate in May 2017 with a master of science in criminal justice and public safety, as well as a graduate certificate in homeland security and emergency management. After graduation, I plan to pursue a career in either law enforcement or emergency management.

Growing up with a family member in law enforcement definitely influenced my career goals as my father has taught me a lot about his career and field. I am forever grateful for the opportunities provided by the NTOA that have supported my family and myself during my college education.



Kyle Woo and Capt. Wayne Woo

### **Kyle Woo — 2012**

I am a student at the University of California, Davis. I graduated with a bachelor of science degree in computer science. I started off college not entirely sure what I wanted to do with my life, opting to begin by attending the local community college. During my freshman year in 2012 I was awarded the NTOA Educational Scholarship. This was significant financial support as I was working full time in addition to having a full course load. Within a year's time, I settled on my field of study and set my sights on transferring.

In 2014, I transferred to UC Davis. These past two years have flown by, but have been the most memorable and influential years in my life. From understanding obscure math algorithms to creating countless programs, Davis truly has taught me a great deal. I am even grateful for the opportunity to improve my patience with fellow classmates during this unfortunate time of hostility toward police officers.

With everything I have learned and the financial support of this scholarship, I have received my first job. Upon graduation, I will be working for the Department of Defense doing research and development for the Navy. I will be part of the Engineering Science and Development Program under the weapons division at NAVAIR (Naval Air Systems Command).

I am so grateful for having been raised in a law enforcement household where I was taught to love my country and was inspired to give back to it.