

# 2017 Public Pupil Transportation Scholars At Virginia Tech Named

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(For Immediate Distribution)

LYNCHBURG, VA... Five Virginia Tech students with ties to the state's school bus community have each been awarded \$2,500 Public Pupil Transportation Scholarships at the university. The scholarships are made possible through an endowment established the late F.W. *Sonny* Merryman, Jr., of Rustburg. A longtime university benefactor, Merryman was the founder and patriarch of the company which bears his name – Sonny Merryman Inc. – Virginia's oldest and largest school bus dealer. To be eligible for the scholarships students must be enrolled full-

time at Virginia Tech and have a parent or grandparent currently or formerly employed by a public pupil transportation operation in Virginia.

The 2017 scholarship recipients are Ashley Roberts, Brittany Vicars, Christopher Shorter, Corey Capehart and Laura Bruckner. Roberts is a graduate of Park View High School in Mecklenburg County and is a Virginia Tech senior majoring in Accounting and Information Systems. Both her grandparents and her mother are former school bus drivers in Mecklenburg County. Vicars is a graduate of Abingdon High School in Washington County and is a junior Wildlife Conservation major at Tech. Her mother is an office administrator and part-time school bus driver in Washington

County. Christopher Shorter is a graduate of Nottaway High School and a Tech sophomore majoring in Forestry. His grandmother is a transportation supervisor in Southampton County. Corey Capehart is a graduate of Atlee High School in Hanover County and is a University Studies major in her sophomore year in Blacksburg. Her mother is a former school bus driver in Henrico County. Laura Bruckner is a graduate of E.C. Glass High School in Lynchburg and is a sophomore studying Human Nutrition and Foods. Her father is a former school bus driver in Lynchburg.

Since being established in 2003, Public Pupil Transportation Scholarships have been awarded to 57 Virginia Tech students

providing more than \$140,000 in academic awards.