

PRESS RELEASE

350 S. Range, Suite 14, Colby, KS 67701

785.460.9152 tccf@st.tel.net

ThomasCountyCommunityFoundation.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TCCF Announces 2011-2012 Scholarship Recipients

COLBY, Kan. (May 9, 2011) – The Thomas County Community Foundation announced today the recipients of three scholarship awards for the 2011-2012 scholastic year. Brittany Bange was selected to receive the Chuck Dempewolf Community Service Scholarship, Grace Hankin was chosen for the Terry Strutt Memorial Scholarship and Lexi David was chosen to receive the Cory R. Wang Memorial Scholarship.

Brittany Bange, daughter of Paul Bange and Tawnia Bange of Colby, was selected for the \$500 Chuck Dempewolf Community Service Scholarship, sponsored by Kansas Quick Lube. This scholarship is primarily based on community service merit. Brittany has an extensive service record in Colby including, but not limited to initiating the Young Humanitarians, participating in National Honor Society, Special Olympics Volunteer, Red Cross Blood Drive Volunteer, and coordinating numerous benefits for different causes. Brittany plans to pursue a business marketing and graphic design degree at Kansas State University.

“Having exemplary community service attributes is one of the major qualifications to be considered for this scholarship and Brittany fits that requirement perfectly as she has not only volunteered, but also lead many of the endeavors,” said Kristina Hills, TCCF Scholarship Committee Chair.

Selected for the Terry Strutt Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by the Darvin & Tammi Strutt family is Grace Hankin, daughter of Sean Hankin and Kelly Hankin of Colby. Grace was chosen for this \$2,000 scholarship based on her past and future involvement in school-sponsored extracurricular activities. Grace has participated in Debate, Forensics, National Honor Society, Student Council, Technology Student Association and Young Humanitarians in high school. She plans to participate in Vocal Music, Presidential Scholars and Student Senate while attending Colby Community College pursuing higher education in the fields of psychology and criminal justice. Grace plans to obtain her master’s degree with the goal of eventually working as a prison psychologist.

“Tammi and I feel that in today’s world, education will be the one thing that sets us apart from one another. We want to give young adults from our area a chance to get a head-start on a quality education. But, education doesn’t only happen in the classroom which is why the scholarship recipient must be involved in extra-curricular activities. We want students to enjoy and benefit from the whole college experience and feel that involvement outside of the classroom will enhance the student further,” stated Darvin Strutt.

Lexi David, daughter of Alan and Teresa David of Goodland, has been selected to receive the full tuition and fees Cory R. Wang Memorial Scholarship for the 2011 – 2012 academic school year. Cory Wang was one of the two original recipients of the Criminal Justice Scholarship funded by the City of Colby’s Special Law Enforcement Fund. Cory became a Thomas County Deputy Sheriff, Thomas County K-9 Service Office and Deputy Marshall for the City of Brewster. Micki Steele-Blair, Cory’s mother, started the Cory R. Wang Memorial Scholarship at Colby Community College in memory of Cory and to further his passion for the Criminal Justice program at Colby Community College (CCC). Lexi, a current CCC student, plans to finish her associates degree at CCC, and then continue her education at Aims College in Greeley, Colorado, in order to fulfill her goal of becoming a detective. Lexi was recently chosen as one of 28 college students from Kansas to attend the Kansas Collegiate Law Enforcement Academy on May 15-18, sponsored by the Kansas Highway Patrol.

“We are thankful to our generous donors who established these scholarships to assist our future leaders with their academic endeavors”, stated Melinda Olson, TCCF Executive Director.

Including the three abovementioned awards, the Thomas County Community Foundation has given 24 scholarships to area students worth nearly \$30,000 since its inception in 2001.

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The Thomas County Community Foundation (TCCF) is a 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to endow permanent funds to improve the quality of life for all citizens of Thomas County. TCCF has several funds established and has granted more than \$300,000.00 since beginning its inception in February 2001. The Thomas County Community Foundation encourages all businesses or individuals interested making tax-deductible contributions to contact TCCF at 785-460-9152 or tccf@st.tel.net.

