

**Scholarship and Leadership
Niswonger Foundation Board Update
Monday, August 30, 2021**

2021 Summer Leadership Institute

The theme for this year's Summer Leadership Institute was "*Moving Up Without Losing Your Way.*" The book's theme is discussion of the ethical costs of upward mobility. The author is Jennifer M. Morton. The Summer Leadership Institute was held July 26-30, 2021. Special guest speakers included Tosha Downey, Senior Program Office for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; and Governor Bill Lee.

Eight Niswonger Scholars Alumni assisted with facilitation/presentations: Will Brummett, Christian Dalton, Trey Dodson, Dr. Jessica Epley Burchette, McKenzie Reynolds Potter, Kori Smith, Alex Smyth, and Madeline Standbridge. Marilyn duBrisk provided elocution training and activities.

We made every effort to accommodate social distancing and provide an opportunity for each Scholar to spend time with Foundation staff and other Scholars.

Scholars Travel/Training Experiences

While both the New York City and Normandy trips have been cancelled for 2021, we were able to successfully complete the Outdoor Challenge experience for two classes of Scholars (sophomores and juniors). The Bahamas trip was completed for the freshman class.

Scholar Academics

- The following Scholars obtained a 4.0 GPA for the Spring Semester: Derek Driskill (Carson Newman University, freshman); Mabel Olson (Tennessee Technological University, freshman); Makayla Davis (East Tennessee State University – sophomore); Sarah Douthat (University of Tennessee- Martin, junior); Aubrie Strange (Samford University, junior); Rithvik Vutukuri (Tulane University, junior); and Levi Blazer (Belmont University, senior).
- No Scholars were below the required 3.0 GPA with a class average of 3.86 GPA.

Scholar Service Activities

- A total of 542 hours of community service were reported for Spring Semester. This is an impressive number, considering the challenges of COVID closures of volunteer opportunities.
- Ty Myers (University of Tennessee- Chattanooga) logged 72 hours of service with the Young Life program.

Scholar Summer Internships

- Derek Driskill (Carson Newman University, freshman) – Niswonger Foundation CareerConnect
- Aisling Hagan (University of Tennessee-Knoxville, sophomore) – Knoxville Utilities Board
- Alexis Harvey (Tennessee Technological University, freshman) – Nuclear Fuel Services, Erwin
- Macy Noe (Vanderbilt University, freshman) – ArtaZan, Greeneville

- Mabel Olson (Tennessee Technological University) – Nuclear Fuel Services, Erwin
- John Turner (University of Tennessee-Knoxville, sophomore) – Knoxville Chamber of Commerce
- Rithvik Vutukuri (Tulane University, junior) Tulane Research Internship

Recent Scholar and Alumni Scholar Updates

- Please see attached update.