



SOUTH CAROLINA
AVIATION
ASSOCIATION

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SCAA Announces 2021 Scholarship Recipients

Charleston, S.C. – South Carolina Aviation Association (SCAA) has awarded five scholarships to South Carolinians pursuing careers in the aviation industry. Everyone received a \$1,000 award in memory of Reid Garrison, SC Aviation Association Hall of Fame Inductee.

Alexander Clifton, Landrum SC is pursuing a private pilot license. He is an active member of the Civil Air Patrol at Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport and takes flying lessons at the facility as well. “The SCAA Scholarship lets me take more lessons, allowing me to reach my goal of becoming a commercial pilot sooner,” Clifton said.

Sara Dockins of Six Mile is in her freshman year at Clemson University, where she is studying mechanical engineering. She plans to work in the aerospace engineering industry. “Throughout my years in college, I hope to find every opportunity possible to learn both inside and outside the classroom,” Dockins said.

James Hiott of Little River is enrolled in the Aviation Maintenance Technician program at Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics in Myrtle Beach. His goal is to work on the F-16 project at Lockheed Martin Greenville. “I’ve had a passion for aviation since I was a child,” Hiott said.

Thomas H. Kepley, III is a resident of Columbia who earned his private pilot license as a high school student and is currently studying Aerospace Engineering at Virginia Tech. Thomas plans to earn a master’s degree in business and to work in aircraft design. He stated, “I plan to use my engineering skills to design more effective, safe and resilient aircraft.”

Abby Threatt of Summerville is a junior at Summerville High School, who is pursuing her

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private pilot license at CRAFT Flight Training and Simulation. Abby as has attended Space Camp in Huntsville Alabama, and she intends to study engineering in college. She says, “In 10 years, I see myself working as a pilot and engineer for an international aviation company.”

SCAA’s scholarship program is open to South Carolina residents who attend, or will attend, an educational institution or flight school inside or outside the state. The application period for the next program cycle will open in Spring 2022.

SCAA actively promotes and encourages aviation and airport development to meet air transportation needs and assist the state in achieving economic development goals. Its membership is comprised of S.C. airports, aviation industry partners and aviators across the state. For more information, please visit scaaonline.com.

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