

Newport News Education Foundation awards \$10,000 scholarship

Each year the Newport News Education Foundation selects an applicant from Newport News Public Schools to receive the \$10,000 Wayne D. Lett Scholarship. This year, Lauren Francis, a senior at Woodside High School, has earned that honor.

Francis, who has been active in a number of school activities, including the Student Council Association, marching band, and Student Athletic Leadership Team, is also a volunteer with an organization that builds beds for children in the community. She says that her leadership work in school has “given her a heart for young people” and sees teaching as a way to give back to the community.

Ms. Francis plans to attend Christopher Newport University and teach English in Newport News Public Schools upon earning a teaching license.



Lauren Francis, holding check, was notified at school that she has been selected as the 2022 Wayne D. Lett Scholar by members of the scholarship committee, including, from left, Rick Brandt, Rhonda Bell, John McMillan, and Kim Hammond.

The Wayne D. Lett Scholar Program is a merit-based award of \$10,000 given over four years to a Newport News public school senior who plans to become a public school teacher. The program is administered by the Newport News Education Foundation as a tribute to Wayne D. Lett, Ed.D., a former superintendent of Newport News Public Schools. The recipient must commit to teach in Newport News for three consecutive years after graduation.

About the Newport News Education Foundation

The Newport News Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports the efforts of Newport News Public Schools to prepare students for their future. Members bring to the foundation their expertise in business, education, and industry, as well as skills in community leadership. The Foundation also serves as a convener and facilitator, providing events and programs to encourage dialogue between the business and education communities. Its key programs support NNPS students and teachers through the Wayne D. Lett Scholarship Program, the Teacher Innovation Mini Grant Program, and the "Salute to Success" student recognition event.