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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From the Office of the American Secretary

The Rhodes Trust

1660 International Drive, Suite 600

McLean, VA 22102

703-821-5960

american.secretary@rhodesscholar.org

www.rhodesscholar.org

THE RHODES TRUST ANNOUNCES 2026 UNITED STATES RHODES SCHOLARS

WASHINGTON, DC | November 15, 2025 – Dr. Ramona L. Doyle, American Secretary of the Rhodes Trust, today announced the names of the 32 Americans chosen as 2026 Rhodes Scholars, one of the most prestigious academic honors available to U.S. college graduates. The Scholars will begin fully funded postgraduate study at the University of Oxford in England in October 2026.

This year's class was selected by 16 independent U.S. selection committees, which met simultaneously across the country on Saturday to interview 238 finalists. Nearly 2,800 students began the application process, and 965 candidates received formal endorsements from their colleges and universities. The endorsed applicants represented more than 264 different institutions.

A Class Shaped by Excellence, Leadership, and Service

The 2026 U.S. Rhodes Scholars represent 22 unique colleges and universities, including three institutions that had not had a U.S. Rhodes Scholar in over 25 years: Colby College, Rutgers University, and George Washington University.

The Scholars have achieved exceptional academic records across the humanities, social sciences, and physical and life sciences. They also demonstrate remarkable leadership, public service, and creativity. Among this year's Scholars-elect are:

- Three student body presidents and two local public officials
- An aspiring physician who helped build an eye bank in Ukraine
- A Paralympic athlete who is also a bioengineer and advocate for athletes with disabilities
- An aeronautical engineer fluent in four languages who plays piano, guitar, and drums
- An international affairs scholar who paints portraits and competes in triathlons

The cohort will pursue graduate studies across the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. In addition to their academic distinction, they are recognized for remarkable leadership, creativity, and commitment to public service. Among this year's Scholars-elect are:

A Global Community of Scholars

The 32 Rhodes Scholars selected from the United States will join Scholars chosen from 25 other Rhodes jurisdictions worldwide, along with two Global Rhodes Scholars, forming an international cohort of just over 100 Scholars.

With today's announcements, 3,706 Americans have received Rhodes Scholarships since the first U.S. class in 1904, representing 329 colleges and universities. Since women became eligible in 1976, 689 American women have received the award. More than 2,100

American Rhodes Scholars are living today in communities across the United States and around the world.

About the Rhodes Scholarship

Established in 1902 through the will of Cecil Rhodes, the Rhodes Scholarship is the oldest and one of the most recognized international academic awards. The Scholarship provides full financial support for two to three years of study at Oxford and may extend to a fourth year, depending on the degree program. It is funded in partnership with the Second Century Founders, John McCall MacBain O.C., The Atlantic Philanthropies, and many other generous benefactors.

According to Dr. Doyle, the criteria outlined in Cecil Rhodes' Will remain central to the selection process:

“Academic excellence is essential, but it is only the beginning. A Rhodes Scholar should demonstrate ambition for social impact, strong leadership, empathy for others, and an acute awareness of inequities. The Trust seeks Scholars of exceptional character who are committed to making a profound difference in the world. A Rhodes Scholar should show great promise of leadership and character, as well as an exceptionally strong commitment to service.”

U.S. applicants may apply either through their state of legal residence or the state where they have studied for at least two years. Each district committee selects two Scholars. The estimated annual value of a Rhodes Scholarship is approximately \$75,000, with total support of up to \$250,000 depending on program length and field of study. The award covers:

- All Oxford University fees
- A living stipend
- Travel to and from Oxford
- Research, conference, or additional academic support where applicable

Press Contacts

For U.S. Rhodes Scholarships:

Ramona L. Doyle, American Secretary, Rhodes Trust

american.secretary@rhodesscholar.org

For inquiries regarding access to newly elected Scholars:

Thom Yu, Director, Office of the American Secretary, Rhodes Trust

thom@rhodesscholar.org

For information about Rhodes Scholarships outside the United States:

Babette Littlemore, Director, Communications, Rhodes Trust

babette.littlemore@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk

Winners' List and Biographical Profiles

A full list of the newly elected 2026 United States Rhodes Scholars, including profiles, state and district information, and institutional affiliations, follows this release.

Please Note: Because the 16 district selection processes occur simultaneously across the United States, early versions of the winners' list and short biographies may contain minor inaccuracies or typographical errors. Updated and verified information is typically posted within 24 hours. For the most current list, please visit www.rhodesscholar.org. Photographs and updated biographies will also be available on the global Rhodes Trust website at www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk.

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