2012 Team Members
Meet the 20 winners who will be honored today in Orlando.

Billy Joe Ammons, Jr.
Lubbock Christian University
Lubbock, Texas
Age: 21
Career Goal: Physician

Amy Bartel
Mat-San Jacobus College
San Jacinto, California
Age: 20
Career Goal: Archaeologist/Professor

Rosalind Bray
Bowling Green State University
Perrysburg, Ohio
Age: 21
Career Goal: Environmental Lawyer

Aubrey Brooke Christopher
Catastrophic State College
Perry, Florida
Age: 21
Career Goal: Early Childhood Education Teacher/Administrator

Brandon Alexander
Central Michigan University
San Angelo, Texas
Age: 19
Career Goal: State Representative

David Cargian
Anoka-Ramsey Community College
Crown Point, Minnesota
Age: 20
Career Goal: Lab Researcher/Teacher - Radio Astronomy or Cosmology

Laurie Lynn Coumoumas
Metropolitan Community College
Wood, California
Age: 20
Career Goal: Forensic Science Specialist

LeAnn Michael Esterling
Moraine Park Technical College
Linden, Michigan
Age: 20
Career Goal: Linguistic Anthropologist

Luther Tongue
Continental College
Westminster, Maryland
Age: 20
Career Goal: Journalist/Editor-in-Chief

Allison Brown
St. Petersburg College
Davenport, Florida
Age: 20
Career Goal: Physician Assistant

JUDGES
Julian Allen, The University of Southern Mississippi
Emily Brown, Morningside University
Dameena D’Emeca, American Association of Community Colleges
Kirk Glaze, Coca-Cola Refreshments
Cassius Johnson, Jobs for the Future

Sponsor

Since USA Today’s All-USA Community College Academic Team was created over 22 years ago, the program has expanded far beyond its original scope. The awards are administered by Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society for community colleges. Its executive director, Dr. Rod Riley, has made it his mission to see that as many students as possible get recognition – and a shot at scholarship money.

As college costs continue to climb, “community college becomes a vital channel to access the baccalaureate degree,” Riley says. “An expanded program helps provide the opportunity and raises awareness of the need.”

In 1994, Phi Theta Kappa and Mississippi’s and Missouri’s Community College Presidents launched the first All-State Academic Teams, and the idea quickly caught on with programs now in 38 states. Any student nominated for the All-USA team is automatically on an All-State team. An estimated $14 million in scholarships are awarded by senior colleges, universities, corporate sponsors and other exclusively for All-State team members.

In 2001, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation and The Coca-Cola Foundation began offering $100,000 awards for the top-scoring student from each state. The students, now call “New Century Scholars,” received $2,000 each. The program has since expanded and now offers additional scholarships to nominees attending community colleges in Canada and in sovereign nations where Phi Theta Kappa chapters exist.

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation also supports the Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team. $1,500 each to 50 Gold Scholars, and $1,250 each to 50 Silver Scholars, totaling $100,000. “It’s such an honor for the student to even be nominated for the All-USA Community College Academic Team that every single student and every single nominating institution is recognized,” Riley says.

Since this year’s team was announced, the collegiate awards have raised more than $2.5 million for scholarships with the help of more than 25,000 college community colleges nationwide. The awards are given to students in two categories: Gold and Silver. Gold scholars are chosen based on academic excellence, leadership, personal initiative and community service. Silver scholars are chosen based on their academic excellence and their potential for leadership and service.

For more information on the All-USA Community College Academic Team, please visit USA Today’s Web site at USA Today.com. For more information on Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, please visit www.Coca-Cola.org.

Dr. Rod Riley
Executive Director of Phi Theta Kappa
Honor Society
These scholarships programs recognize outstanding academic achievement and leadership accomplishments of college community students.