

January 2024



Congratulations to our Second-Career Scholarship Recipients!

The Board of Trustees of the Selected Educational Trust is proud to announce the [recipients](#) of the 2023 Fall Cycle Second-Career Scholarship Program. The winners are Emily Murman and Cassandra Koukios. This cycle of the Trust's signature scholarship program is sponsored by C&J Financial and was created to meet the educational needs of the increasing number of second-career professionals entering independent funeral service seeking positions as funeral directors, embalmers and future leaders.

Emily Murman, a third-quarter student at Worsham College of Mortuary Science, Wheeling, IL, will graduate in March 2024. Murman comes to the funeral service profession after working as a teacher for almost four years.

"I am thrilled to be pursuing a career in funeral service, something I have been interested in since my late teens, and after I graduate in March 2024, I strive to pass my national board exams, complete an apprenticeship, obtain my license, and practice as a funeral director and embalmer for an independently owned funeral home, continuing to expand my knowledge and pick up new skills throughout my career." [Watch her video.](#)

Cassandra Koukios is set to graduate from Worsham College of Mortuary Science in September 2024. "There is no doubt in my mind that funeral service is the profession I should be in, and I am so blessed to have finally made it to my dream career."

Second-Career Scholarships are awarded by the Selected Educational Trust to individuals who have chosen funeral service later in their career journey and currently are attending mortuary school. Applications open soon for the Spring 2024 Scholarship Cycle and will be due by May 31. Visit selectedtrust.org/second-career-scholarship for more information, or contact [Stefanie Favia](#).



Realize Your Leadership Future with a Full-Tuition Scholarship to the Selected Leadership Academy

The Selected Leadership Academy offers a focused two-year curriculum designed to engage and energize any Selected member wanting to build their leadership skills.

The Selected Educational Trust is excited to offer two full-tuition scholarships to help Selected members build their leadership skills through the Selected Leadership Academy: the Chester T. French Memorial Scholarship and a scholarship made possible thanks to a generous grant from [Homesteaders Life Company](#).

Robert Nunnaley, Fry and Pricket Funeral Home, NC, shared how impactful receiving an Academy scholarship was for him.

"The Selected Leadership Academy was one of the best programs for me in my career. I was transitioning from a funeral director to a general manager when I applied for a scholarship to the Academy. I learned how to identify my strengths and weaknesses as a leader and how to work with and treat others in our organization. The connection with my class was phenomenal and through it I built lifelong relationships."

All applications must be received by January 31, 2024.

Apply today!



Do You Know the Next Ambassador of the Year?

Established in 2021, the [Ambassador of the Year Awards Program](#) honors individuals for their outstanding contributions to the mission and vision of the Selected Educational Trust, their personal and significant contributions to the independent funeral service profession, and their commitment to provide lifelong learning opportunities for all who work within and for this time-honored profession

Each year, two individuals, a Funeral Service Professional and an Industry Partner Leader, are selected by the Board of Trustees to receive this distinguished award. The recipients are honored during a ceremony held at Selected's Annual Meeting.

[Nominate yourself or a colleague](#) for this prestigious honor by May 31, 2024.

The Trust thanks [Physicians Mutual](#), sponsor of the Ambassador of the Year Awards Program since its inception in 2021.



Fresh Job Listings in the Employment Center

Looking for a job? New funeral director and apprentice job listings are live in the Employment Center. Selected members are the best in the profession-- independently owned funeral homes with a common interest in continuous growth and serving families with compassionate care and [professional integrity](#).

Another great way to get noticed by Selected member firms actively hiring is [to create a candidate profile](#) in the Career Center. It's anonymous and visible exclusively to Selected members.

[View Employment Center Job Listings](#)

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