

March 2024



Congratulations to Scholarship Recipients Laten Ford and Wade Overturf

The Selected Educational Trust has announced two scholarship recipients for the 2024-2026 class of the [Selected Leadership Academy](#):

- Laten Ford, Townes Funeral Home and Crematory, Danville, VA, recipient of the *Chester T. French Memorial Scholarship*
- Wade Overturf, Smith Family Funeral Homes, North Little Rock, AR, recipient of the 2024 Leadership Academy Scholarship sponsored by [Homesteaders Life Company](#)

These scholarships, valued at more than \$5,000 each, provide the recipient with full two-year tuition plus an annual stipend to participate in the Selected Leadership Academy, a unique and rewarding educational opportunity offered exclusively to members of Selected Independent Funeral Homes. The Academy is a personalized journey for those, no matter title or position, who believe their leadership matters and choose to become better.

"I started working in a funeral home when I was only 16 and decided soon after that funeral directing was my calling in life," said Laten Ford. "It's been an exciting opportunity to become manager of a funeral home at such an early stage in my life and career. It will be just as exciting to become a student in the Academy where I can learn leadership skills that I can apply for the rest of my career."

"I am looking forward to the whole experience of the Leadership Academy and being able to meet and learn from other fantastic funeral professionals," said Wade Overturf. "I am truly thankful for being chosen and look forward to the next step in this journey!"

"Selected's Leadership Academy is a launchpad to great things," stated Stefanie Favia, the Trust's Executive Director. "We are honored to be able to propel these dynamic professionals forward with this opportunity to grow and lead."



Attention Second-Career Students in Mortuary Science Schools!

Do you know someone that is in mortuary science school and pursuing funeral service as a career later in life? Second Career Scholarships offered by the Selected Educational Trust are the perfect way to support the development and growth of the apprentices and funeral assistants on your team. New this year, for the first time ever, students enrolled part-time at a mortuary science school are eligible to apply for the scholarship. Thanks to sponsor [Gunderson Funeral and Cremation Care](#), two \$1,500 scholarships will be awarded this June. But don't wait, applications must be received by Friday, May 31.

Apply Now



Trust to Award \$5,000 to One Lucky Student in Georgia

The Selected Educational Trust is pleased to announce that we will once again offer the Ralph S. Turner Memorial Scholarship Program, funded with a gift from A.S. Turner and Sons, Decatur, GA, with some changes for 2024. This scholarship program will grant one \$5,000 award to a student graduating from mortuary science school in the state of Georgia this year. Applications are now being accepted for these scholarships, to be awarded this June.

"Funeral service is a calling, a rewarding one where we walk with a family every step of the way as they honor their loved one," said Cy Hume of A.S. Turner and Sons. "But it also requires deep commitment and hard work. Mr. Turner knew this well and exemplified it every day. Which is why we have chosen to establish this scholarship in his honor—to help lift up those new to funeral service that have demonstrated their willingness to serve in duty of this honorable profession."

The deadline to apply for this scholarship is May 31.

[Apply Now](#)



Will it Be You on This Stage in September?

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.

Thank You to Our Donors

February 1 - 29, 2024

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