

February 2026



Participate in a Virtual Job Fair

Introducing the [Virtual Job Fair Series](#), hosted by the Selected Educational Trust! These unique networking sessions will connect mortuary science students and recent graduates connect with trusted, independently owned funeral homes from across the country. The first two are coming up soon!

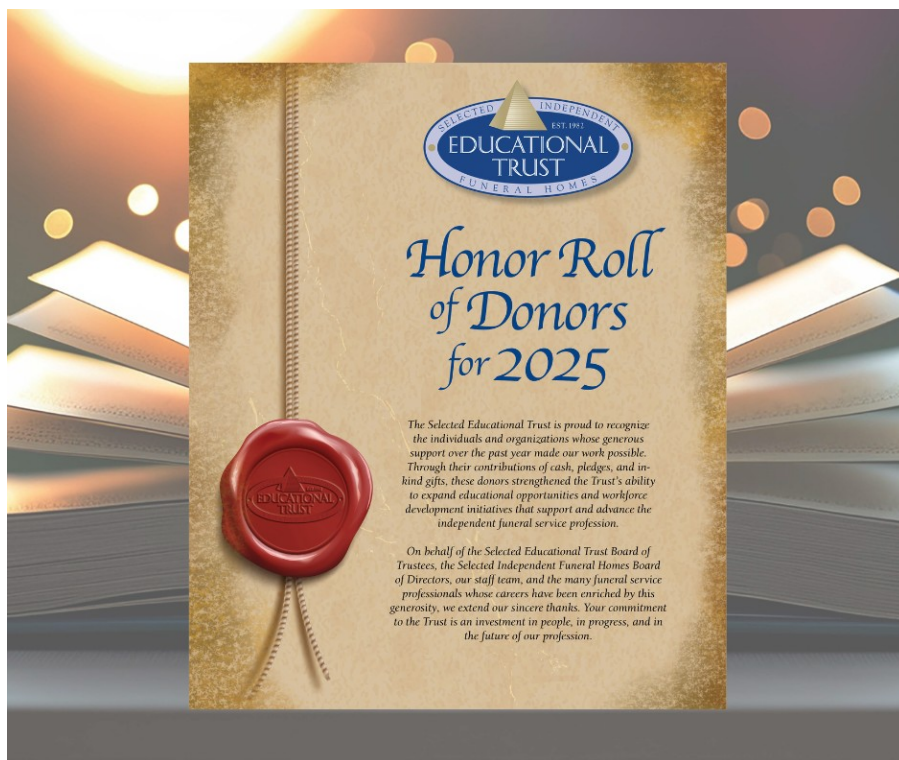
Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin. [Register today participate!](#)

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Featuring firms from the following states: Delaware, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia. [Register by February 27 to participate.](#)

These virtual events will give job seekers and employers a unique opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations, build professional relationships, and explore potential career paths—all in a low-pressure, networking-focused environment. [View the full calendar](#) and [sign up today!](#)



Together We Advance the Profession

Every achievement of the [Selected Educational Trust](#) begins with a shared commitment to our mission—and with the generosity of those who believe in it. Scholarships are awarded, employers are connected with emerging professionals, and high-quality educational programs are developed because donors choose to invest in the future of independent funeral service. We are proud to present the [2025 Honor Roll of Donors](#), a meaningful reflection of the individuals and organizations whose support made this work possible.

This special publication celebrates each gift received over the past year and the collective impact those contributions have on careers, communities, and the profession we serve. To every supporter whose name appears in these pages, we offer our heartfelt gratitude for your dedication to education, workforce development, and the advancement of independent funeral service.

You are invited to be part of this continuing story. [Make your gift today](#) to secure your place in next year's Honor Roll, or contact [Stefanie Favia](#) to explore the many ways you and your firm can help strengthen the legacy of the Selected Educational Trust.

Congratulations to the 2025 Ralph S. Turner Memorial Scholarship Recipient



The recipient of the 2025 Ralph S. Turner Memorial Scholarship has been announced; congratulations to Charae Kiplin, set to graduate this year from Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Service in Decatur, GA. "Receiving this scholarship motivates me to continue toward my goals, reminds me that others believe in my potential and will help me to enter the funeral profession with confidence, compassion, and care to serve families in times of need and grief." This scholarship grants one \$5,000 award to a student graduating from mortuary science school in the state of Georgia.

Applications open soon for several spring scholarships offered by the Trust and will be due by May 31. Visit selectedtrust.org for more information, or contact [Stefanie Favia](#).



A Shared Standard of Leadership: 100% Board Participation Achieved for the Second Year

For the second year in a row, the Selected Educational Trust is proud to announce an extraordinary milestone: 100% of members of both the Educational Trust Board of Trustees and the Selected Independent Funeral Homes Board of Directors made personal contributions to the Trust in 2025. This continued achievement reflects a deep and unified commitment to advancing education, leadership, and opportunity within the independent funeral service profession.

Daniel Kochapski, Selected Board Director and Liaison to the Board of Trustees, reflected on the significance of sustaining this momentum: *“Reaching 100 percent participation once was inspiring—achieving it again speaks to the strength of our shared purpose. Our Boards understand that investing personally in the Trust is an investment in the future of this profession and the people who serve families every day. I’m proud to stand alongside leaders who don’t just support the mission in word, but in action.”*

The collective generosity of Trustees and Directors sets a powerful example for the entire Selected community. Their support helps ensure that scholarships, workforce initiatives, and innovative educational programs remain strong and accessible for current and future professionals. This renewed commitment affirms

that the Trust's mission is not only guided by its leaders—but championed by them.

Thank You to Our Donors

January 1-31, 2026

Cypress Lawn, Robert Gordon, Colma, CA
Haskett Funeral Homes Ltd., Exeter, ON, Canada
Panebaker Funeral Home & Cremation Care Center, Inc., C. Michael Newman, Hanover, PA
Wise Funeral Service, David E. Wise, Bucyrus, OH

*Make your gift in memory or in celebration of a loved one, family member, colleague or friend.
For more information on ways to give, contact [Stefanie](#).*

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