

April 2026



TRUST
UPDATES

To provide the best educational opportunities for the advancement and support of all who work within and for the independent funeral service profession.



Ralph S. Turner Memorial Scholarship

Just Announced: Ralph S. Turner Memorial Scholarship

The Selected Educational Trust is pleased to announce that we will once again offer the Ralph S. Turner Memorial Scholarship, funded with a gift from A.S. Turner and Sons, Decatur, GA. While historically this \$5,000 scholarship was

expanded to students scheduled to graduate from a mortuary science program this year in any of the following states: Georgia, Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee.

"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 is May 31 and the scholarship will be awarded in June.

Apply Now



Apply Now: Second-Career Scholarships for Aspiring Funeral Service Professionals

Now is the time to apply for a Second-Career Scholarship! Are you or someone you know pursuing funeral service as a second career? These scholarships provide vital support to those transitioning into this meaningful profession. Two new Gunderson Funeral and Cremation Care Second-Career Scholarships and one [Michael R. St. Pierre Memorial Scholarship](#), each \$1,500, will be awarded in June—but don't wait! Applications are due by May 31. Invest in your future and apply today.

Apply Now



Supporting Stronger Scholarship Applications: A New Resource for Applicants

At the Selected Educational Trust, we are committed to not only providing scholarship opportunities, but also helping applicants put their best foot forward throughout the process. That's why we're pleased to introduce a new resource designed to support one of the most important components of any application—letters of recommendation.

Our new Scholarship Application Guide offers clear, practical guidance to help applicants confidently request strong, thoughtful letters of recommendation. From identifying the right individuals to ask, to providing helpful context and timelines, this resource empowers applicants to approach the process with professionalism and intention.

Explore the [Scholarship Application Guide](#) today and discover the simple step that can have a lasting impact on all of your scholarship applications.



Looking for an Apprenticeship? The Trust Can Help!

Are you a mortuary science student seeking an apprenticeship or job? The Selected Educational Trust has 2 ways to connect you with employers at some of the best independently owned funeral homes.

1. Create your profile in the [Mortuary Science Student Center](#). This database is your direct connection to independent funeral homes looking to hire. Get discovered by Selected member firms that value quality and education.

2. Search for Selected Independent Funeral Homes member firms using the [Find a Firm](#) search tool. Once you find a firm that you are interested in, contact [Stefanie Favia](#) at the Trust. We can arrange a direct introduction!

Start your career on the right foot with a little help from the Trust!

Thank You to Our Donors

March 1-31, 2026

Raymer-Kepner Funeral Home, John and Claudia Kepner, Huntersville, NC

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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