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VSBA Board of Directors Southwest Region Regional Scholarship Recipient Announced



Charlottesville, VA – The Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) proudly announces Lauren Baker, a senior at Abingdon High School in Washington County Public Schools, as the 2026 VSBA Board of Directors Regional Scholarship recipient for the VSBA Southwest Region. Baker was recognized last night during the VSBA Southwest Region Spring Network Forum and will receive a \$5,000 scholarship to support her post-secondary education.

An active leader, Lauren is a Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) officer, National Honor Society member, Student Council Association member, and longtime Friends 4 Life peer mentor. Through her involvement in 4-H, FBLA—where she earned a 2nd place competition finish—and athletics, she has developed the adaptability, teamwork, and resilience that will guide her in making a meaningful impact wherever she is needed most.

After high school, she plans to attend East Tennessee State University where she will study to pursue a career in nursing. Through her career, her goal is to care for patients and give back to healthcare and community.

When asked what this scholarship means to her, Baker wrote, “I am honored and humbled to receive this scholarship. I am proud to represent my community and area.”

“Lauren exemplifies the dedication, service, and leadership we are proud to see in students across the Southwest Region,” said VSBA Southwest Region Chair and Dickenson County School Board Member Jason Hicks. “Her involvement in organizations that support both academic growth and community service reflects a strong commitment to helping others. As she pursues a career in nursing, we are confident that Lauren will continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those she serves.”

VSBA Executive Director Gina Patterson stated, “VSBA is proud to recognize students like Lauren who demonstrate a commitment to both academic achievement and service to their communities. Her passion for pursuing a career in nursing reflects the compassion and dedication that will strengthen the healthcare workforce and communities it serves. We are excited to support Lauren as she begins the next chapter of her educational journey.”

About the Virginia School Boards Association

The Virginia School Boards Association, a voluntary, nonpartisan organization of Virginia school boards, promotes excellence in public education through advocacy, training, and services. The Association offers conferences, information, training, and counseling designed to meet the needs of the Commonwealth’s educational leaders.

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