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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CIENA HEALTHCARE & LAUREL HEALTH CARE COMPANY ANNOUNCE INAUGURAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

*Eight children of current Ciena and Laurel employees will receive funds for continuing education*

**WESTERVILLE, Ohio** – Ciena Healthcare and Laurel Health Care Company, operators of more than 80 skilled nursing and rehabilitation facilities across five states, are proud to announce eight recipients of scholarship awards through the inaugural Ciena-Laurel Scholarship Program administered by Scholarship America®. The Ciena-Laurel Scholarship Program was established by company leaders to assist children of current Ciena Healthcare and Laurel Health Care Company employees who plan to continue their education in college or vocational school programs.

Over 30 applications were reviewed by Scholarship America’s evaluation team, and awards were granted to eligible recipients without regard to creed, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or national origin. Four recipients were chosen from each company, and scholarship amounts ranged from \$500 to \$4,000.

“We are thrilled to offer financial support to these outstanding scholars as they continue their educational journeys,” Nancy Erwin, Director of Employee Relations and Development for Ciena Healthcare and Laurel Health Care Company, said. “We are truly honored and privileged to be able to invest in the futures of the children of our talented, dedicated, and passionate employees.”

**Ciena Healthcare Scholarship Recipients**



**Kayla Cruse**  
Flat Rock, Mich.

Kayla Cruse is entering her second year at Washtenaw Community College, studying liberal arts. She is the daughter of Douglas and Carissa Cruse, and her father is an employee of **Regency at Livonia** in Livonia, Mich.

*Awards, Interests, Honors*

Passionate about sound design and music ... achieved a 4.0 GPA in her first year of college ... Dean's List.



**Viko Mumbiro**

Canton, Mich.

Viko Mumbiro is entering her second year at Michigan State University, where she is studying nursing. She is the daughter of Fungai Mumbiro & Nhamo Mumbiro. Fungai is an employee at Regency at Bluffs Park in Ann Arbor, Mich.

*Awards, Interests, Honors*

Interested in her studies, which include pre-nursing, science and math ... has already earned CNA certification.



**Clara Tait**

Caseville, Mich.

Clara Tait is entering her third year at Michigan State University, where she is studying intradepartmental science. She is the daughter of Mary Frances and Michael Tait, and her mother is an employee at Courtney Manor in Bad Axe, Mich.

*Awards, Interests, Honors*

Assistant Laker Science Olympiad Aide



**Elizabeth Taylor**

Flint, Mich.

Elizabeth Taylor is entering her second year of college and first year at Saginaw Valley State University, where she is studying medical laboratory science. She is the daughter of Rebecca and Jason Taylor, and her mother is an employee at Willowbrook Manor in Flint, Mich.

*Awards, Interests, Honors*

Shows and cares for horses; has earned numerous awards over a period of 11 years ... member of the National Honor Society and awarded the President's Award of Academic Excellence at Kearsley High School ... Dean's List at the University of Michigan-Flint.

**Laurel Health Care Company Scholarship Recipients**



**Mackenzie Miller**

Hicksville, Ohio

Mackenzie Miller is entering her second year at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, studying dental hygiene. She is the daughter of Carrie Miller and Greg Miller, and her mother is an employee at **The Laurels of DeKalb** in Butler, Ind.

*Awards, Interests, Honors*

Enjoys working, spending time with family friends, learning more about dentistry, and frequenting coffee shops ... awarded several high school scholarships, as well as the "Excellence Award" from IUFW.



**Catherine Pilot**

Henrico, Va.

Catherine Pilot is entering her first year at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, studying biological sciences. She is the daughter of Martha and Michael Pilot, and her mother is an employee at **The Laurels of Willow Creek** in Midlothian, Va.

*Awards, Interests, Honors*

LIS all-conference soccer team ... state championship in basketball ...Varsity captain for soccer, basketball, and volleyball ... recipient of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* Scholar-Athlete Award ... West Point Leadership Award ... class president ... RVA dental care internship ... honors every quarter.



**Lauren Pipes**

Leicester, N.C.

Lauren Pipes is entering her second year at Belmont Abbey College, studying biology for a pre-med track. She is the daughter of Charles and Shirley Pipes, and her mother is an employee at **The Laurels of GreenTree Ridge** in Asheville, N.C.

*Awards, Interests, Honors*

Member of Belmont Abbey's acrobatic and tumbling team ... assistant coach for a WNC acrobatics team ... employed as a CNA ... two-time Dean's List as a freshman at Belmont Abbey ... enjoys hiking and painting ... plans to pursue a career in pediatrics.



**Alec Sifferlin**

Columbus, Ohio

Alec Sifferlin is entering his second year at The Ohio State University, where is majoring in international studies. He is the son of Sean and Sara Sifferlin, and his mother is an employee at **The Laurels of Walden Park** in Columbus, Ohio.

*Awards, Interests, Honors*

Dean's list both semesters as a freshman at OSU ... joined Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society.

**About Ciena Healthcare**

Ciena Healthcare has managed skilled nursing homes and rehabilitation centers since 1998. Ciena's seasoned leadership team provides nursing homes throughout the state of Michigan with clinical, operational, regulatory, and financial management and expertise. Ciena Healthcare is striving to change the perception of nursing home care service by providing patients and residents with high quality of care in home-like environments.

At Ciena Healthcare, we're all about YOU. Learn more at [www.cienahealthcare.com](http://www.cienahealthcare.com) and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/cienahealthcarefacilities](http://www.facebook.com/cienahealthcarefacilities).

**About Laurel Health Care Company**

Laurel Health Care Company, operator of The Laurels skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers, is a national provider of skilled nursing, rehabilitation, sub-acute, and assisted living services dedicated to one simple principle – achieving the highest standards of care and caring. We achieve this goal in partnership with our guests and their families, our associates, and the communities we serve.

At The Laurels, caring is more than providing excellent medical and guest services. It is also being a companion, and treating each guest with the utmost dignity, respect, and compassion.

Learn more about #TheLaurelWay at [www.laurelhealth.com](http://www.laurelhealth.com) and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/laurelhealth](http://www.facebook.com/laurelhealth).

**About Scholarship America®**

Scholarship America is a Minnesota-based philanthropic organization that assists communities, corporations, foundations, and individuals with fundraising, managing, and awarding scholarships to students. The organization designs, administers and manages corporate and foundation scholarship programs. Visit [scholarshipamerica.org](http://scholarshipamerica.org) for more information.

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