

TWO DEGREES, MOTIVATED BY YOU

Kirkwood
FOUNDATION

I am writing to express my gratitude for being selected as the recipient of the Leaders for Tomorrow Scholarship! It is such an honor to be recognized, and I am very grateful for your generosity and support as I continue my educational experience at Kirkwood.

I have worked in the garage with my dad since I can remember, which has created a very strong foundation for my work ethic. While working in my father's automotive shop, I realized my body may not allow me to have a lifetime career as a mechanic. I still love cars, both fixing and diagnosing them, so while completing my prerequisites for Respiratory Therapy online, I have decided to fill my time with the 2-semester program for Automotive Technology. I should complete the program in the spring of 2026. My goal is to finish at Kirkwood with an Associate's Degree in Respiratory Therapy and an Intermediate Automotive Technology Degree. Throughout my journey at Kirkwood, I plan to build a strong foundation for my future, whether I choose to pursue a career as a Respiratory Therapist or as a Mechanic.

Outside of school, I also have a full-time job at my dad's shop and enjoy spending time in the gym. With three days of in-person Automotive classes, two online classes, and three days of work throughout the week, I tend to keep my schedule full, stay busy, and productive! Receiving this scholarship has allowed me to focus more on my academic goals without the added stress of financial hardship. It also helps me stay motivated and determined to do my best in my classes!

Once again, thank you so much for your generosity. Your substantial support creates a huge difference in the lives of many students like me, and I hope one day I will be able to give back to others just like you did for me!

- Talia Engels,
Respiratory Therapy +
Automotive Technology

