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**Alabama Students and Educators
To Be Awarded $13,000 In Scholarships**

**Montgomery, AL, April 26, 2016 –** School Superintendents of Alabama (SSA) and Chalkable, the Scholarship Program Sponsor, are proud to announce the high school graduating seniors who are recipients of $9,000 in SSA Student Scholarships and the educators who are recipients of $4,000 in SSA Administrator Scholarships for 2016.

 Congratulations to the SSA/Chalkable Student Scholarship recipients who intend to pursue a degree in education from one of Alabama’s public colleges or universities. The student scholarship recipients are: **Justin Dunnam**, graduating from Saraland High School in the Saraland City School System, who plans to attend Faulkner State Community College; **Jayla Woods**, graduating from Southside High School in the Dallas County School System, who plans to attend Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical University; **Makayla Hall,** graduating from Slocomb High School in the Geneva County School System, who plans to attend Wallace Community College; **Kelley McGarrett,** graduating from LaFayette High School in the Chambers County School System, who plans to attend Alabama State University; **Annamarie Tritch**, graduating from Oak High School in the Shelby County School System, who plans to attend either the University of Montevallo or Troy University; **Taylor King**, graduating from Moody High School in the St. Clair County School System, who plans to attend Troy University; **Ragan Ferguson**, graduating from Northridge High School in the Tuscaloosa City School System, who plans to attend the University of South Alabama; **Amanda Arrington**, graduating from Florence High School in the Florence City School System, who plans to attend the University of North Alabama; and **Hannah Claire Irelan**, graduating from Virgil I. Grissom High School in the Huntsville City School System, who plans to attend the University of Montevallo.

 These students were selected by the Superintendents who were chosen as district finalists for the SSA/Classworks Superintendent of the Year (SoY) Award. The SoY finalists for 2016 include: Dr. Aaron Milner, Saraland City Schools; Mr. Don Willingham, Dallas County Schools; Mrs. Becky Birdsong, Geneva County Schools; Dr. Kelli Hodge, Chambers County Schools; Mr. Randy Fuller, Shelby County Schools; Mrs. Jenny Seals, St. Clair County Schools; Dr. Paul McKendrick, Tuscaloosa City Schools; Dr. Janet Womack, Florence City Schools; and Dr. Casey Wardynski, Huntsville City Schools.

 We are also proud to award scholarships to these educators who plan to pursue a degree in school administration from one of Alabama’s public colleges or universities. These educators are seeking degrees at the M.S./M.A., AA/Ed.S., or Ed.D./Ph.D. levels. The four educators selected to receive scholarships include: **Selena Speight,** a first grade teacher at Tuscaloosa Magnet Elementary School in the Tuscaloosa City School System, who is currently pursuing a graduate degree in Educational Leadership at the University of Alabama; **Jacqueline Smith**, a fifth and sixth grade STEM Lab Teacher at Mill Creek Elementary School in the Madison City School System, who plans to pursue a degree in Administration from the University of West Alabama; **Shannon Marks**, a high school teacher at Mountain Brook High School in the Mountain Brook City School System, who is currently pursuing a degree in Educational Administration from the University of Alabama in Birmingham; and **Monica Weeks**, a fifth grade teacher at Mixon Intermediate School in the Ozark City School System, who is pursuing a graduate degree in Educational Leadership from Troy University. These SSA/Chalkable Administrator Scholarship recipients will be formally presented with a $1,000 check by a Representative from Chalkable during an upcoming school event. All Administrator Scholarship applications were scored by SSA’s Awards and Scholarships Committee chaired by Dr. Jeff Langham, Assistant State Superintendent of Education - Office of External Affairs.

“The major purpose of SSA is to promote high quality public education in every community throughout the state. These scholarships reinforce that mission by helping these high-achieving students become teachers and helping our leaders go back to graduate school too. We are proud of these recipients and their commitment to quality in our schools. It takes investment to make good things happen, and this is an investment we are proud to make, along with our partner, Chalkable,” said Dr. Eric Mackey, SSA Executive Director.

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