

2015 TASP Scholarship Adult Winners

**Educational Opportunity Center
Ben McCurry-ETSU – Dr. Ronnie Gross, Director**



Ben McCurry is currently majoring in Environmental Health at ETSU. He is Vice President of the student group, The Reconciled, which focuses on giving college students the opportunity to grow in their faith in Christ as well as provide them with service opportunities to help better their community. He passionately serves as a deacon at Christ-Reconciled Church in downtown Johnson City. He enjoys hanging with friends, playing Hearthstone, exercising, and watching movies.

**Ronald E. McNair
Kristen Leedy-ETSU – Dr. Ronnie Gross, Director**



Kristen Leedy is a Ronald E. McNair scholar from Mount Carmel, TN. She is currently a clinical psychology student and undergraduate research assistant at East Tennessee State University. She hopes to continue her education with the ultimate goal of obtaining a PhD in clinical psychology and becoming a licensed clinical psychologist.

Student Support Services
Matthew Pierce – Tusculum College – Dr. David Smith, Director



Matthew Pierce is a rising senior at Tusculum College and an active member of Student Support Services. He is currently participating in the Ronald McNair Post baccalaureate Summer Internship. Matthew is a Creative Writing and Political Science double major and serves as a tutor for a variety of disciplines. He serves as president of Tusculum's English Student Organization and works as a student editor for "The Tusculum Review."

Student Support Services
Natalie Shinault-UT-Knoxville – Dr. Ronald McFadden, Director



Natalie Shinault is a hard working student and came to the University of Tennessee at Knoxville with twenty-seven dual enrollment credits putting her ahead of the game. She has a passion for public speaking and service and would like to combine in a future career. She has been recognized in her public speaking class and was a Semi-Finalist in the McClung Speech Contest. She and her friends have started a Black Student Union on campus. She is destined for greatness.

Veteran's Upward Bound
John Galyon-ETSU – Lenus Morrison, Director



John Ryan Galyon was born and raised in Knoxville, Tennessee and graduated from Farragut High School in 2009. He entered college but after a short while decided to withdraw and join the military. He entered the U.S. Air Force where he honorably served, progressed in rank, and received several military awards. Unfortunately, he was injured on active duty and was medically discharged in May of 2013. John's untimely discharge did not deter his desire for higher education. He found East Tennessee State University's Veteran's Upward Bound Program and joined in early September for assistance in planning for college entrance. He entered Northeast State Community College in the spring of 2014 and received his AS Degree on May 8, 2015 and the Institutional Honors of Summa Cum Laude. John will be entering East Tennessee State University in the fall semester, 2015 in pursuit of a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work.