



CPE REPORT

Eastern Kentucky University News for the Council on Postsecondary Education



RMI scholarships mean a lot to me because they show all the hard work I have done throughout college has paid off. These scholarships continue to push me to keep achieving in my academic goals.

— Jasmine Liaupsin —

2021 RMI MODEL STUDENT
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

PHOTO: TIMELESS TREASURES PHOTOGRAPHY

NEW SCHOLARSHIP AIMS TO ATTRACT DIVERSE STUDENTS TO THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY

Kentucky Employers' Mutual Insurance (KEMI), a workers' compensation insurance provider, established a new scholarship at Eastern Kentucky University with the goal of ultimately having a more diverse workforce within their company and the insurance industry.

Last year, KEMI formed a diversity and inclusion committee to identify ways for the company to be more inclusive. KEMI President and CEO Jon Stewart shared that when he travels for insurance conferences, he sees a lack of diversity among those in leadership positions.

KEMI funded the scholarship with an initial \$15,000 donation. Starting with the 2021-22 academic year, the KEMI/EKU Diversity Scholarship will be awarded to a racially or ethnically diverse student majoring in risk management and insurance at ECU.

"The scholarship makes what might otherwise only be a dream for some students — affording a college education — much more attainable," said Dr. Lisa Gardner, professor and director of ECU's risk management and insurance program. Renewal scholarships may be provided for up to three additional years for students who remain enrolled full-time at the university and continue to meet the set criteria. The new scholarship strengthens an already well-established partnership between ECU and KEMI.

EKU's nationally ranked risk management and insurance program prepares graduates to work in many different aspects of insurance, from serving customers to management and leadership roles.



NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT ELLIOTT WINS GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP

Eastern Kentucky University chemistry major and honors program student Andrew Elliott has been named a winner of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship. Elliott is the fifth Goldwater winner in the university's history.

The Barry Goldwater Scholarship is the most prestigious nationally competitive undergraduate scholarship program in the United States for students aiming at careers in the natural sciences, math, and engineering. Elliott, a non-traditional student and current head tutor for EKU's Chemistry Department, is the only winner this year from any regional comprehensive university in Kentucky.

Elliott is passionate about oncology research and is grateful to learn from his mentors. The respect between mentor and student is mutual. Dr. Margaret Ndinguri, of EKU's Chemistry Department explained, "I have enjoyed working with Andrew Elliott in my research lab. He is intelligent, hardworking, mature, personable, and a natural in science. Andrew is a quick learner and his intellectual curiosity puts him above his peers. His major strengths are a strong work ethic and self-drive both in class and in research settings," she said.

In addition to his groundbreaking research, Elliott contributes valuable insights in his honors seminars. The Goldwater Scholarship will open doors for Elliott that he didn't think were possible, he said, and as a Goldwater Scholar, he is one step closer to achieving his goals.

EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY ADDS ONLINE MBA PROGRAM AND MINORITY PRE-LAW PROGRAM

Eastern Kentucky University has recently added an online Master of Business Administration (MBA). This addition expands opportunities for students in a growing field and is designed for working adults looking to advance in their current career, change career paths, or even become an entrepreneur.

Students can tailor the degree to their interests and career needs by choosing a specific concentration in one of 12 areas of study. The 100-percent online MBA degree equips students with the foundational business knowledge needed for managers and leaders across industries. The degree explores topics such as utilizing data in decision making, effective interpersonal and professional communication, problem-solving in the workplace, ethics in business, and inclusive leadership.

Eastern Kentucky University will also fund the Dinsmore Pre-Law Minority Program through a generous gift from EKU Board of Regents Chair and Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP Partner Lewis Diaz and his wife Becky. The program will provide mentoring, career advice, interactive programming and financial assistance to area minority undergraduate students interested in attending law school.

As part of the firm's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, the Lexington office of Dinsmore & Shohl LLP began this initiative in the wake of the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others in recent years. "We believe this program will help break down barriers that exist for minority students who want to pursue a legal career, and it will help close the opportunity gap that we have seen in the legal profession for far too long," said the Lexington office Managing Partner, Grahamn Morgan, who is heading up this program along with Dinsmore Attorneys Shaye Johnson and Mindy Barfield.

The program will have a scholarship attached as well for a student who completes the Dinsmore Pre-Law Minority Program toward paying for law school.

