

2010

Heather Evans:

Heather Evans is the 2010 winner of the LEEF scholarship. After graduating from LE Heather moved to Tampa, Florida where she attended the University of South Florida. While attending USF she studied Mass Communications, specializing in Public Relations and received her degree of Bachelor of Arts in 2014. She currently works for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the Community Relations Department. They are in charge of all of the players, women, kids, and military outreach/events in our community. "I love this line of work and hope to continue in corporate philanthropy/foundation/non-profit work" said Evans. Heather was asked what impacted her the most during her senior year at LE and she answered "During my freshman, sophomore, and junior years graduation felt so far away that I didn't worry about my future plans. My senior year it really sunk in that I would be starting a new chapter before long so I needed to not only enjoy every moment and experience to the fullest, but also look ahead for my future(i.e. college decision, scholarship applications, degree, career, etc.). I think that feeling of "This is the last time I'll do this" really propelled me my senior year". Her biggest piece of advice to students regarding scholarships is to apply! She says "It seems tedious and boring, but it's so worth it. Do your research because there are scholarships for everything and you can't win them if you don't apply". Her advice to students looking at colleges is "Go on as many college visits as you can – even if you go to the same college visit more than once! It helps you get a better feel for the day-to-day vibe of the campus. It's also important to really think about everything that's important to you in a college (i.e. degrees of study, residence halls, extra-curricular activities, sports teams, the community around the college, distance from home, etc.). I started off with my mind set on one college, but after several visits to the same college I totally switched and couldn't be happier with my choice."

2014

Trevor Swackhamer:

Trevor Swackhamer is the 2014 winner of the LEEF scholarship. After graduating from LE Trevor attended Ohio University Lancaster branch and main campus. At OU Trevor studies Information Telecommunication Systems; in which he hopes to get a job as a data center technician, cyber security specialist, or network engineer. Trevor was asked what impacted him the most his senior year at Logan Elm and he said "despite the criticism of Logan Elm's current infrastructure or technology, I feel the staff at Logan Elm helped prepare me for college. The experience I got working with the school's webpages, computers and photography helped me determine the degree I would get and the career I wish to pursue". His advice regarding scholarships is "I recommend you fill out as many scholarships as you are eligible to apply for. In my case, I applied for around 12 and only received two. The more scholarships you fill out, increases your odds of earning one". His advice for those still searching for colleges is "when picking a college, see if you can complete most or all of your basic classes at a regional campus. In my experience, regional campuses are the best bang for the buck. The professors there are very helpful and the class sizes are small. A year of tuition at a regional campus costs about 50% less than at a main campus. In my case, I spent two years at Ohio University in Lancaster. After that, I was able to transfer to the main campus and was not required to live on campus. Looking back, it was the best decision I ever made. I have saved a large sum of money, will get the same degree, and plan to graduate on time. Some may argue that I wouldn't get the full college experience if I didn't start on the main campus. To that, I disagree. If anything the two years I

spent at OUL helped improve my self discipline and made it easier for me to focus on my classes after I transferred to the main campus. I feel better prepared for the "college experience", still able to make new friends, and make new connections that may one day land me a career”.

2015

Alyssia Parsons:

Alyssia Parsons is the 2015 winner of the LEEF scholarship. After graduating from LE Alyssia moved to Atlanta, Georgia where she attends Emory University. While attending Emory she is studying Human Health and Religion (double major); she plans to receive her degree in 2019. After her undergraduate study, she hopes to join a MD/PhD program so she can eventually practice medicine and conduct her own research. Alyssia was asked what impacted her the most during her senior year at LE and she answered “I think what impacted me most was recognizing the great support system that I had. There were a lot of events throughout senior year. From senior night and my last games for both softball and soccer to graduation day. My family was there to support me for everything. They came to my final games, cheering me on and lending me a shoulder when I realized that those games would be my last. They showed up to both sports banquets and the senior awards ceremony. Graduation weekend, everyone worked together for my graduation party and they all sat in the bleachers as I gave my speech on graduation day. I always knew that I had my family's love and support, but seeing how they all came together and went above and beyond for my senior year, really made me realize how much they cared. I was able to end senior year knowing that no matter what happened as I moved forward, I would always have their unconditional love and support”. Alyssia’s advice regarding scholarships is “the most important thing I would recommend, is just to apply for everything that you can. You never know what will come of it. There is nothing to lose and plenty to gain from applying for scholarships. The guidance office does a good job at keeping the local scholarships posted and they keep copies of the applications. In addition to these, there are plenty others available, including from the individual college you will be attending, the federal government, and private companies. I would suggest to do some research on what scholarships you are eligible for. There are also many websites online that help to match you to scholarships for which you are eligible to apply”. Her advice for those just looking at colleges to attend is; “I would simply suggest to keep an open mind. I was not familiar with Emory when I applied. I only applied because it was a partner school of a program I participated in, which allowed me to apply for free. However, after I was accepted and received my financial aid package, the idea of attending here became more real. My mom and I took a trip for just a quick visit, and I fell in love with the campus immediately. Even though I hadn't really thought about attending here when I applied, I am really happy here and it opened up a lot of opportunities for me. This is why I would suggest to carefully consider where you want to attend and do not let others influence your decision. Ultimately, choosing a college is about where is best for you because that is where you will be for the next four years and what will set you up for your future”.

2016

Colleen Murnane:

Colleen Murnane is the 2016 winner of the LEEF scholarship. After graduating from LE Colleen moved to Athens, Ohio where she attends Ohio University. At OU Colleen studies Exercise Physiology with a Biology minor in which she hopes to become a physical therapist. What impact Colleen the most during her senior year at LE was; “I ran my first ever full

marathon. I had committed to training for 6 months before the race in October, and it gave me the confidence to know I would always be putting my best foot forward with my life decisions". Her advice for students looking at scholarships is "do not expect scholarships to fall in your hands, work with a professional to fix your resume and get involved in activities that will stand out to someone reading your application. It helps to get old copies of scholarships to get an idea of what ones you can apply to, and the type of essay or applicant they are looking to award their scholarship. Additionally, working on communication skills will be useful from this point in your life throughout your entire professional career". Her advice for students just looking into colleges is; "don't be afraid to tour a school you didn't think you would like. It's okay to go into your senior year or even the end of your junior year without a definite decision to where you would like to spend the most important years of your life. Choose a college that will help you become the person you've always dreamed of being".