

Awardees announced for the Dr. Charles McElmurray Scholarship

The Dr. Charles McElmurray Scholarship Fund provides grants for scholarships for South Carolina high school graduates interested in entering health professions at all levels (diplomas, certificates, Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, etc.). When possible, first preference is given to graduates of Fairfield County schools, second preference for Chester and Lancaster County schools.

The Dr. Charles McElmurray Scholarship Fund is pleased to announce the following awardees for the 2026-2027 academic year:

- Ainsley Martin, Presbyterian College
- Alivia Martin, University of South Carolina
- Alyssa Gallman, University of South Carolina
- Anna Grace Martin, University of South Carolina
- Ava Stephens, University of South Carolina
- David (Blake) Speer, USC Lancaster
- Brandon Dominguez Vicente, Presbyterian College
- Emma Himel, Winthrop University
- Genesis Watts, USC Lancaster
- Kynlee Millen, USC Lancaster
- Lola Heckman, Clemson University
- Peighton Sweatt, University of South Carolina

Dr. McElmurray was the first Medical Director for the Community Medicine Foundation, doing business as the John A. Martin Primary Health Care Center, in Winnsboro. He served in this capacity for over three decades. His professional medical care had a profound impact on generations of families in Fairfield County. During his time at the center, he has helped to train more than 1,400 health professional students, providing them with the opportunity to learn about working in a rural healthcare setting and providing services to a community that is in dire need. In 2019, he received the Dean's Distinguished Service Award from the School of Medicine at the University of South Carolina to recognize his excellence in service, leadership, advocacy, and professional accomplishment.

Dr. McElmurray was also a founding member of the Upper Midlands Rural Health Network (UMRHN) and called the first meeting on March 25, 2004. He had an innate understanding of the benefits of collaboration and worked to bring the Chester and Fairfield County hospitals and health department to the table to enhance partnerships. UMRHN went on to become a 501 (c)(3) organization and later expanded to add partners and include Lancaster County.

After Prisma Health purchased the John A. Martin Primary Health Care Center, the Board of the Community Medicine Foundation approached UMRHN to receive the remaining funds for the purpose of establishing a scholarship fund. The Board of UMRHN decided to name it the Dr. Charles McElmurray Scholarship Fund to recognize Dr. McElmurray's impact. Dr. McElmurray believed strongly in education, both for future healthcare professionals as well as for patients who could be empowered to make better decisions for their own health. The scholarship application is available from January 15 to April 1 and can be found at <https://umrhn.org/dr-charles-mcelmurray-scholarship>