



## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** — July 8, 2016

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### **HACA Awards \$90,000 in Scholarships to Low-Income Austin Residents** *More than \$1 million awarded over the past 15 years*

The Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) and its nonprofit subsidiary, Austin Pathways, today (July 8) awarded 57 renewable scholarships totaling \$90,250 to residents of its public housing and Housing Choice Voucher programs at its 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Austin Pathways HACA Scholarship Ceremony.

“We are proud to award scholarships to these 57 deserving individuals so that they may continue their education and pursue endless opportunities for themselves and their families,” said HACA President and CEO Michael Gerber. “This year’s ceremony marks a special milestone: more than \$1 million has been awarded since the program’s inception in 2002.”

Scholarship recipients range from newly graduated high school students to returning adult students and those attending college for the first time. Manchaca Village resident Christeen Wier represents nearly half of the awardees. She is the first generation in her family to attend a four-year college. Wier will start at the University of Texas at Austin in the fall, and plans to major in biomedical engineering.

“There is nothing more important than education,” said HACA Board Chairman Carl Richie Jr. “I grew up in public housing, and I know the difference education can make in finding opportunities in life. I am proud of these 57 students who will use these scholarships to pursue careers in health care, business and education.”

Austin Pathways oversees and manages an endowment for HACA resident scholarships that originated with seed funding from HACA's nonprofit, revenue generating subsidiaries -- Southwest Housing Compliance Corporation and Austin Affordable Housing Corporation. Annual fundraising through donations and grants allows Austin Pathways to maintain this endowment and continue to provide resident scholarships.

For more information about the Austin Pathways HACA Scholarship, visit <http://www.hacanet.org/residents/scholarships.php>

**About Austin Pathways:** Austin Pathways is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that promotes the education and general welfare of low-income Austinites who live in the 18 public housing communities owned and operated by HACA and those who participate in its Housing Choice Voucher program. Austin Pathways supports scholarships, youth academic enrichment, workforce development, and health and wellness initiatives. For more information, visit [austinpathways.org](http://austinpathways.org).

**About HACA:** The Housing Authority of the City of Austin is a public agency whose mission is to cultivate sustainable affordable housing communities and partnerships that inspire self reliance, growth and optimism. For more information, visit [www.hacanet.org](http://www.hacanet.org), or find us on Twitter [@hacanet](https://twitter.com/hacanet).

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