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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WSWA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES FOUR 2022 ROBERT QUALLS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

*Four Hospitality Students Receive \$20K in Total Scholarships to Help Fund Education*

**WASHINGTON, D.C., 11/28/2022** – The WSWA Educational Foundation – the charitable arm of Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America (WSWA) – has today announced four recipients of the Robert Qualls Scholarship. The winning students, who are pursuing a certificate or degree in the hospitality space and are former or current employees of alcohol wholesalers, retailers and suppliers, were awarded \$5,000 each to help fund their education expenses.

WSWA Educational Foundation created the Robert Qualls Scholarship Fund thanks to the generous donations of Tito's Handmade Vodka and Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits in memory of Robert Qualls, an extraordinary hospitality and spirits industry veteran and a beloved employee (at different times in his life) for both companies. The Robert Qualls Scholarship Fund honors Qualls' legacy of hard work, generosity, and selflessness by allowing students to follow in his footsteps. Throughout his career, he helped build brands, managed businesses, and mentored the next generation of industry professionals.

The four recipients this year are Audrey Arant (Oklahoma State University), Tristan Hurst (Johnson & Wales University), Jake Johnson (The University of Kentucky), and Andrea Niblick (Western Governors University). Scholarship winners were selected by an independent panel of judges through a competitive application process.

"We are honored to present these four students with scholarship funds as they continue to pursue an education in the hospitality industry," said Francis Creighton, WSWA's president and CEO. "Robert Qualls was an incredible man who left a lasting impact on our industry. I have no doubt these students will follow in his footsteps as they advance in their education and careers, leaving their legacy on the hospitality industry in various and meaningful ways."

For more information about this scholarship program and the WSWA Educational Foundation, please visit our website [here](#).

View the four scholarship winners [here](#).

**About Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America**

WSWA is the national trade association representing the distribution tier of the wine and spirits industry, dedicated to advancing the interests and independence of distributors and brokers of

wine and spirits. Founded in 1943, WSWA has member companies in 50 states and the District of Columbia, and its members distribute more than 80 percent of all wine and spirits sold at wholesale in the United States.

To learn more, please visit [www.wswa.org](http://www.wswa.org) or connect with us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

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