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**EMILY COURIC
LEADERSHIP FORUM**

Eleven area high school women recognized for leadership and awarded college scholarships by the Emily Couric Leadership Forum. Pioneering venture capitalist Sonja Hoel Perkins, to speak at event on April 11th.

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA — The Emily Couric Leadership Forum announces the award of a record \$250,000 in college scholarships as investments in the next generation of women leaders. Eleven female high school seniors nominated by Charlottesville and Albemarle schools for their excellence in leadership, will receive college scholarships ranging from \$18,000 - \$50,000.

The scholarship nominees met earlier this year with the winner of the annual Women’s Leadership Award, Sonja Hoel Perkins, an alumna of Albemarle High School and UVA’s McIntire School of Commerce. Considered one of the best performing and most senior technology-focused venture capitalists, Perkins has invested in startups that have achieved multibillion-dollar valuations. Inspired to create successful venture capital strategies that support women entrepreneurs and benefit women and girls, Perkins founded Broadway Angels, a network of top venture capitalists and executives who all happen to be women. In addition, many of the philanthropic initiatives Perkins underwrites seek to empower women.

The April 11th awards event will feature a live keynote address by Perkins, remarks by Kaymin Hester of Charlottesville High School (winner of the top Emily Couric Leadership Scholarship), and recognition of the college scholarship winners and supporters who have sponsored scholarships.

Scholarship Awards

Kaymin Hester of Charlottesville High School will receive this year’s \$50,000 Emily Couric Leadership Scholarship. Hester, who plans to become a neurosurgeon and

author, is still deciding between several top colleges. She hopes her prolific writing and passion for volunteerism will continue to inspire her community with a sense of curiosity and adventure about fields ranging from music to medical technology.

The winner of the 2022 Joshua J. Scott Merit Award (\$38,000) is Katharina Ravichandran of Albemarle High School. A gifted math student, Ravichandran uses her heart and mind, together with mathematical modeling, to solve real-world problems in her community. When she learned that many local families were suffering through food insecurity, she founded the nonprofit Students Working Against Hunger to enlist students across the region in food drives and restaurant food recovery.

The other nine scholarship winners, each receiving \$18,000 are:

Abbey Ellerglick, Renaissance School
Hannah Laufer, St. Anne's-Belfield School
Bailey Logan, Monticello High School
Anneka Myers, Community Lab School
Riley Perrault, The Covenant School
Darrah Sheehan, Western Albemarle High School
Noelle Straka, Regents School
Iris Susen, Tandem Friends School
Delaney J. White, Miller School of Albemarle

Meredith Gunter, chair of the Forum board said, "The Emily Couric Leadership Forum is passionate about educating high potential young women. Our goal is to inspire emerging leaders by connecting them to role models like Sonja Perkins. We are confident that these exceptional students will continue to demonstrate leadership in their future endeavors and are so grateful to sponsors and donors who are investing in women's leadership."

It is not too late to donate to the scholarship fund, which benefits these young women and future recipients. Donations can be made at www.emilycouricleadershipforum.org.

For additional information and photographs, or to arrange interviews with a board spokesperson or scholarship recipients, please contact:

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About Emily Couric Leadership Forum: The Forum established a scholarship fund at the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation to honor the legacy of the late Virginia State Senator Emily Couric. Through the scholarship and Women's Leadership Award, the Forum encourages all women to adopt an active role in government, public issues, and policy debates affecting their communities, and to inspire young women to pursue activities which will enable them to become effective leaders. For more information visit <https://www.emilycouricleadershipforum.org>