FAU’s Kelly/Strul Emerging Scholars program awards scholarships to Florida high school seniors

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FAU President John Kelly helped found The Florida Atlantic University Kelly/Strul Emerging Scholars program, which has awarded comprehensive scholarships to 15 Florida high school seniors this year. (Carline Jean / Sun Sentinel)

Fifteen Florida high school seniors have recently been awarded comprehensive scholarships from the Florida Atlantic University Kelly/Strul Emerging Scholars program for first-generation college students.

The scholarship offers academically successful, low-income students the chance to graduate from FAU debt-free. The Kelly/Strul Emerging Scholars program provides a
financial aid package that includes tuition, four-year on-campus housing, books, a meal plan and additional resources to guarantee success.

Founded in 2017, the Kelly/Strul Emerging Scholars Program was intended to lessen the burden of school debt for students. Boca Raton philanthropists Aubrey and Sally Strul, as well as FAU President John Kelly and first lady Carolyn Kelly, were the major benefactors of the scholarship program.

“Sally and I are proud to partner with FAU and, along with our board and mentors, help provide a level playing field for these students,” Aubrey Strul said in a news release. “We are so impressed with the Class of 2024 and expect great things from them.”

Aubrey and Sally Strul provided an initial investment of $1 million, and since then the program has managed to grow rapidly due to the support of additional donors. The program helped almost three dozen students.

“It was difficult to select the Class of 2024 as we received amazing submissions from more than 60 outstanding students across the state,” FAU President John Kelly said in a news release. “We feel the young adults chosen exhibit many of the qualities we look for in a Kelly/Strul scholar, including determination, grit and intelligence. I look forward to watching them flourish.”

The Class of 2024 scholarship winners include Gema Cervantes, Glades Central High; Kayla Harris, Seminole Ridge High; Idolina Morales, Royal Palm Beach High; Evan Cabrera, Lake Worth High; Arthi Khan, Palm Beach State High; Abigail Augustin, Atlantic Community High; Genesis Hernandez, Village Academy; Tivonna Prince, Northeast High; Emily Seymour, Deerfield Beach High; Daunte Harris, Tampa Bay Tech High; Samaelle Louis, Piper High; Indiraliz Gracia, McArthur High; Drexana Rolle, Doctors Charter School High; Aalesha Chisholm-Green, American High and Asia Starling, Orlando University High.

For additional information on the Kelly/Strul Emerging Scholars program or to learn how to donate, visit kellystrulscholars.fau.edu/give/ or by calling 561-297-1272.