



**FALCONER FOUNDATION**  
ARTS & SERVICE SCHOLARSHIPS SINCE 2020

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**FALCONER FOUNDATION ORGANIZATION AWARDS SECOND 10K ARTS & SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP**

**Iredell County, NC** – The [Falconer Foundation](#), a Mooresville-based nonprofit organization serving Iredell County, is excited to announce their second \$10,000 scholarship to a local student. The Foundation, established in 2020, awards scholarships on an annual basis to high school seniors enrolled in either Iredell-Statesville Schools or the Mooresville Graded School district. The scholarships may be used for higher education opportunities or the pursuit of a certified trade.

Made possible by both sponsors and individual donations, as well as the consistent grassroots efforts of the [Foundation's Board](#), the first \$10,000 scholarship was bestowed in 2022 to a very deserving individual, Lyric Contarino, a graduate from North Iredell High School, who is currently attending Brevard College. A second \$10,000 scholarship was awarded recently to another exceptional young lady, De'Layla Overcash, a graduate from Statesville High School. She is attending UNC-Charlotte this fall with a double major in dance and exercise science.

De'Layla has attended Betty's School of Dance since she was three years old, igniting her passion for dance, the arts, and ballet. At Statesville High, she has been an active participant in the Fine Arts Magnet (FAMIS) program, a member of the National Beta Club, and the National Honors Society of Arts, along with taking on the role of president of the all-girls service club, Fellowship In Youth (FI-Y). These endeavors allowed her to lead efforts in creating donation opportunities for numerous local organizations including Rainbow Kids, Toys for Tots, multiple homeless shelters, nursing homes, animal shelters, and the Field of Flags for U.S. veterans.

"I undoubtedly feel that my action in arts and service has had a major impact on the future and those around me. My participation in arts has granted me the opportunity to gain knowledge from so many different people which I intend on sharing with as many individuals as I can someday," said De'Layla. "Receiving this scholarship has inspired me to continue fulfilling and pursuing my passions and to hopefully one day be able to make a difference in someone's life as has been done to mine."

Falconer Foundation Director Cortney Frasier stated, "Rewarding local students immersed in the arts community who have also made it their mission to serve is so crucial. Taking on such a positive path, per their own initiative, at such a young age is remarkable. These young people deserve every advantage we can provide them."

Semi-annual benefit concerts beginning in 2021, held in April and October of each year, helped with building the initial base of funding. "The community support has been phenomenal," said Dennis Cowardin, Chairman of the Falconer Foundation. "We cannot begin to express the gratitude toward the many local businesses and individual donors that have helped make this worthy venture possible." The next benefit concert for the Foundation is scheduled for October 21, 2023 from 3-6pm at [College Street Studios in Downtown Mooresville](#). The event features live music by Coddle Creek and food and drinks for purchase by local entrepreneurs. The event, as always, is free and open to the public; donations are encouraged, and 100% tax-deductible. Find out more about the [Falconer Foundation and their upcoming event here](#).

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