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## **NBSTSA ANNOUNCES 2026 STUDENT ACADEMIC MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS \$20,000 in Scholarships Awarded to Next Generation of Surgical Technology Professionals**

**LITTLETON, CO (May 30, 2026)** – The National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting® (NBSTSA®) today announced the recipients of the **2026 NBSTSA Student Academic Merit Awards**, recognizing outstanding surgical technology students for their academic achievement, dedication to the profession, and commitment to patient safety.

This year's top honor, the \$5,000 Dalton Gay Scholarship, is awarded to **Augustina Romero Perez** of **Palm Beach State College (FL)**, recognizing exceptional passion, service, and commitment to education.

In addition, NBSTSA® awarded \$15,000 in scholarships to the following students:

- Jaime Kantor, Nassau Community College (NY)
- Holly Varner, University of Arkansas–Fort Smith (AR)
- Amy Saunders, Southeast Community College (NE) - *Master of Surgical Assisting*
- Megan Silvestri, Pikes Peak State College (CO)
- TJ Peterson, Pima Medical Institute (AZ)
- Lillian Hartl, Blinn College (TX)
- Kristin Jackson, Alamo College St. Philip's Surgical Technology (TX)
- Rebecca DeMarco, Midwestern Career College (IL)
- Skylar Cox, Santa Fe College (FL)
- Katelyn Myers, Cabarrus College of Health Sciences (NC)
- Hannah Kiffer, Carlow University (PA)
- Maijoy Wooten, Owens Community College (OH)

Each year, NBSTSA® awards scholarships to students enrolled in accredited surgical technology programs who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership, and a commitment to advancing quality surgical patient care.

“We receive many outstanding applicants each year, and NBSTSA® is proud to support these students as they pursue careers in surgical technology,” said **Robin Y. Jenkins, CAE, ICE-CCP, CEO of NBSTSA®**. “These awardees represent the next generation of highly trained professionals who will help elevate

standards in the operating room. We look forward to welcoming them into our community as they earn their **Certified Surgical Technologist (CST®)** credential and continue their professional journey.”

The NBSTSA Student Academic Merit Awards reflect the organization’s ongoing commitment to supporting education, strengthening the profession, and promoting patient safety through certification and continued learning.

For more information, visit [nbstsa.org](http://nbstsa.org).

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*About NBSTSA:* The National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) is a 501 (c) (6) organization responsible for all decisions regarding certification: from determining eligibility to maintaining, denying, granting and renewing the designation. Its mission is to be the gold standard provider of professional certification of surgical technologists (CST®) and surgical first assistants (CSFA®), supporting continuing education, thus promoting superior patient care in the surgical setting.