RCC Presidential Scholars announced

ASHEBORO — Five outstanding Randolph County high school students have been chosen in a competitive process as Presidential Scholars at Randolph Community College for the 2015-16 school year.

Lily Marie Burgess and Kirsten Faith Stovall, both of Providence Grove High School; Hannah Denise Freeman of Faith Christian School, and Cole Douglas Monroe and Polly Savannah Van Ausdall, both of Trinity High School, will receive two-year RCC scholarships through the Presidential Scholars program funded by the RCC Foundation.

High school students from public, private and home schools throughout Randolph County were invited to apply for the scholarships. Students who met the preliminary requirements were invited to attend a Presidential Scholars Day at RCC on March 3, where they learned more about the college and were interviewed by a committee of faculty and staff members. Finalists were chosen and invited back for a second interview with RCC President Robert Shackleford Jr. who made the final choice of five recipients.

Students’ academic records and extracurricular/community activities weighed heavily in the selection of recipients, as did the interviews.

RCC Presidential Scholars receive a $2,500 scholarship for their first year of study — $1,250 for fall semester and $1,250 for spring semester — that is renewable for their second year of study.

The students have the opportunity to participate in RCC’s prestigious Student Leadership Academy, serve as Ambassadors for the college and meet regularly with Shackleford.

• Lily Burgess of Climax intends to pursue a College Transfer degree at RCC. She has served as vice president with the Providence Grove Student Government Association and on the principal’s advisory team. She was a member of the Beta Club and editor for the senior yearbook. She was also co-leader of the school’s pep squad and a basketball player.

• Kirsten Stovall lives in Liberty and plans to pursue a College Transfer degree with the intent to go into business or accounting. She was a cheerleader for one year and was inducted into the Beta Club. She was also a member of the Tri-M Music Honors Society at Providence Grove and participated in musical theater.

• Hannah Freeman of Asheboro has dreams of being an interior designer and will enroll in RCC’s Interior Design program. She was a member of the National Honor Society at Faith Christian and played volleyball, serving as team captain. She has volunteered as a computer technician at Pleasant Ridge Christian Church and also served in the school’s community service program.

• Cole Monroe will attend RCC as an Associate in Arts (College Transfer) student. He was a member of the Trinity tennis team and served with the THS Student Council. He was a member of the high school’s marching band for two years and has also been an active troupe member with the THS Thespians.

• Polly Van Ausdall is from Trinity and also plans to pursue a College Transfer degree. She hopes to become an elementary school teacher. She has been a swimmer for four years at Trinity, was a member of the Beta Club and has volunteered at Hopewell Elementary School for two years. She has also been a cheerleader.

The RCC Foundation is a nonprofit organization that provides a margin of excellence for Randolph Community College by building a strong relationship with the local community, acquiring and managing contributions, and funding activities that support the college.