



## 2019 Leo W. Seal, Jr., Scholarship Spotlight - Hayes Leyser

### Hayes Leyser

Pass Christian, Mississippi | Pass Christian High School | Plans to attend: University of Mississippi



Pass Christian High School Teacher Heidi Byrd calls Hayes Leyser a *bright star* who has a confident maturity about him that is refreshing. “Regardless of the challenge, Hayes rises,” she said.

Hayes describes himself as someone who loves to read, stay up on current events, and learn from opportunities and people. It’s apparent that he also loves to give back to the community. He started *Pass Packs* in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and the program continues to make a difference for those in need after the school bell rings.

Hayes credits the Pass Packs program with helping him learn and grow as a person. He attributes his skills in time management, resourcefulness, public speaking, and accountability to the program he created to fill in weekend gaps, for students who depend on free and reduced lunch at school in his community. According to Hayes, “Four years later, it has been as fulfilling as it has been enlightening.”

School leaders also call Hayes an exceptional and well-rounded student who excels in the classroom, in the community, and on the soccer field. His guidance counselor says, “I’ve known Hayes his whole life. He is the whole package – an all-American guy.”

Mixing his love for learning and service, Hayes plans to pursue a degree in Public Policy Leadership at the University of Mississippi, while working to meet all requirements of the pre medical program. He will also be enrolled in the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College and the Trent Lott Public Policy Institute. Hayes says the Leo W. Seal Jr. scholarship will help with funding his educational pursuits.

Hayes is the son of Retail Sales Leader Clay Leyser. He has held leadership positions in the Beta Club and National Honor Society. As a varsity soccer player at Pass High, he received the Private Leadership/Spirit Award. Hayes also placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the state for the Prudential Volunteer Award. He is a member of the 30’s Club and attended Lott Leadership Summer Institute.