

2020 Leo W. Seal, Jr., Scholarship Spotlight - Molly Collum

Ocean Springs, Mississippi | Cora Homeschool | Plans to attend: University of Southern Mississippi



A joy with noble and sincere intent. Those are just a few of the complimentary words teachers and mentors use to describe Molly Collum. An avid reader, writer and community volunteer, Molly says she is “not your average teenage girl.” She credits that description to her 12 years of homeschooling. The outgoing scholar has a passion for serving others and looks forward to pursuing that passion in college and beyond.

Molly plans to earn a degree in public relations and use her skills in a career with the police department, nonprofit organization or other community partner to continue serving her community. As long as she can remember, Molly has looked for ways to help others.

Molly’s mentor with the Biloxi Police Department’s Public Safety Cadets program, Officer Jeff Langlinais, describes Molly as “an exceptional young adult who has shown excellent leadership skills.” She had recently earned the rank of a Cadet Lieutenant and helped lead the 36 other cadets within the program.

Through the cadet program, Molly also volunteered with Feed the Needy, an annual event that provides food to hundreds of those in need during the holidays. “Molly assists in so many of our events that I am unable to list them all, and needless to say, she is one remarkable young adult,” says Officer Langinais.

Her sincerity has carried over to her work at Coast Life Church. Molly’s heart is “service-oriented” and “leadership driven,” says Rev. DeWayne A. Watson, the senior pastor of Coast Life. “She is quick to learn, committed to her calling, and willing to serve at a moment’s notice.”

With her keen intellect and sense of humor, her Spanish teacher Emily Barberena says Molly’s “gregarious nature and openness to feedback will serve her well in college.”

Molly is the daughter of Financial Center Manager Eric Collum. She served as editor of the yearbook staff for three years and served as president of the Magnolia Gulf Coast Beta Club for two years.