



Tailhook Scholar

Emily Gardiner

Leonardtwn, MD

Sponsor: LCDR Joseph Gardiner III

College: Duquesne University

2022-2023: Sophomore

Major: Occupational Therapy

Academic & Extracurricular Highlights:

- Student Occupational Therapy Association
- Hugs for Healing Coordinator
- Duquesne University Equestrian Team/Competitive Horseback Riding: Health & Wellness Committee
- Maryland State 4-H: 12th grade president
- Personalized Therapy, LLC: Patient Engagement Coordinator
- Arabesque Farm: Equine Coordinator



Thank you to Wings Over America Scholarship Foundation and its generous donors for the continuous support for students like me. Receiving this scholarship will help me continue my life-long passion for helping others by eliminating one of the obstacles in reaching my goal of being an occupational therapist. As an OT, I will help people learn or re-learn everyday activities and see the progression from a low point in life after an injury or surgery to the success of returning to a normal life. While this is rewarding on its own, it would be even more rewarding to assist someone who made sacrifices for our country, so I intend to work with military members and families. Returning a trained and experienced member of our armed forces to their job would preserve the investments made in that individual. It would be my way of giving back to someone who has done so much good for our nation. In my first year as an occupational therapy student, I was repeatedly reminded of why I chose to pursue this career. I focused my efforts on my education and was able to see the fruit of my labor with outstanding academic achievements. Because of this record of hard work, determination, and striving for utmost success, I believe I will make the most of any opportunity given. This scholarship will allow me to continue studying the field that I love and prepare me to serve my future community by relieving a portion of the financial burden brought with it. I have truly chosen a field that I love and cannot wait to see where my education will lead me.