



Abigail Brown

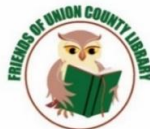
FOUCL AWARDS \$500 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

We are very pleased to announce that Abigail Brown is the winner of the first \$500 college scholarship for academic expenses awarded by Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL). A committee of FOUCL members selected her blind judged essay as the best received. She plans to attend Clemson University on her way to becoming a teacher.

Here is a portion of her essay: “Growing up, books have always been an impactful part of my life, and they’ve shaped me in ways I am still discovering; as a child, I was deemed to be a ‘gifted’ student, and I quickly developed a love for reading and writing. For me, it wasn’t just about school or homework, but it was diving into stories, learning new things and expressing myself in ways that felt right. This love for books has helped to guide me toward my future goal of becoming a teacher because I believe that the power of education changes lives, just as it has done mine.”

Her essay shared the ways she has been especially inspired by *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper and *Chop Wood, Carry Water* by Joshua Medcalf. Her essay ended with these words: “As I continue on my educational journey in education, I am beyond excited to share the power of books with younger generations, and help my students discover how stories, knowledge, and determination can change their lives too.”

Children’s author Kate DiCamillo was quoted as saying, “Reading should not be presented to children as a chore or a duty. It should be offered as a gift.” FOUCL hopes the gift of reading stays with Abigail and that she has many more years of discovering impactful books and sharing them with others. We congratulate Abigail Brown for receiving FOUCL’s scholarship and being honored at Union County High School Awards Night on May 19!



**Advocating for Libraries,
Literacy, and Lifelong Learning**