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General's foundation selects first scholars

■ *Fifteen Foglesong leadership winners come from all parts of West Virginia*

By **CHERYL CASWELL**
DAILY MAIL STAFF

Fifteen West Virginia students have been named the first fellows of the foundation established by Gen. Robert "Doc" Foglesong, the Mingo County native who was the state's highest-ranking military officer until his retirement early this year.

Foglesong's Appalachian Leadership and Education Foundation's goal is to identify potential leaders in financial need, fund their college studies and provide additional training.

"We identified about 82 applicants from the coal fields to the panhandles, and they were all good," Foglesong said.

"We've found the next generation of leaders and our responsibility is to provide the opportunity for leadership and they'll stay with us."

The foundation has partnered with Concord and Shepherd College, and with help from contributors, assures that the recipients' expenses will be covered at one of those institutions.

The fellows are:

Jeremy Brock of Berkeley Springs; Katelyn Curry of Winfield; Westley Jenkins of Harpers Ferry; Brittany Keys of Lewisburg; Brittany Kirkpatrick of Ranson; Alex Lemley of Huntington; Jonathan Lester of Gilbert; Robert McDonough of Shepherdstown; John Meadows of Mac Arthur; Monica Oglesby of Princeton; Brittany Salmons of Pineville; David Aaron Stepp of Matheny; Luke Stevens of Rockview; Gavin Ward of Coal City and Jeffrey Yeager of Pineville.

"A lot of the candidates came from very challenging experiences," said Pamela Scaggs, the foundation's re-



Retired Gen. Robert "Doc" Foglesong recently landed a new job as president of Mississippi State University, but says he remains focused on supporting and expanding his foundation.

source development director. "Many worked through their high school years and did community service. Many of them implemented programs in their communities.

"They all seem to be multi-taskers and they're doing a nice job," she said. "They are well-rounded."

Scaggs added, "Many of them have had challenges in their lives at young ages, but are still doing well."

Through their college careers, the fellows will be involved in regular meetings and social events as well as completing a leadership development program with a focus on community service.

The foundation will assist them in developing leadership skills and strategies for success.

"We want them to be armed with all the tools they need," Foglesong said. "I

found out very quickly leadership is about people."

Foglesong was raised in Williamson and attended West Virginia University.

"It would have been extremely difficult for me to finish and meet my academic goals without assistance," he said. "I came out of our trillion dollar coal fields with aspirations, but not a clear idea of where I wanted to be.

"There are a lot of men and women who have the academic prowess, the character, the good work ethic and the integrity, but have not been able to achieve and become leaders," he said. "That's why I formed this foundation."

The foundation will mentor the students through the college careers and beyond, he said. The fellows will represent the future leaders of West Virginia and the nation.

Said Scaggs, "The true test of the



SALMONS
Pineville



STEPP
Matheny



BROCK
Berkeley Springs



CURRY
Winfield



JENKINS
Harpers Ferry



WARD
Coal City



YEAGER
Pineville



KEYS
Lewisburg



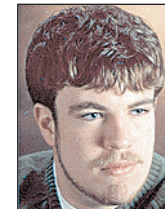
KIRKPATRICK
Ranson



LEMLEY
Huntington



OGLESBY
Princeton



STEVENS
Rockview



LESTER
Gilbert



MCDONOUGH
Shepherdstown



MEADOWS
Mac Arthur

program's success will be after their college career has ended and they apply the skills they mastered through the foundation's curriculum."

Foglesong recently accepted a new job as president of Mississippi State University. He said that even though he will be living in Mississippi, he intends to make the foundation a focal point of his energy and hopes to expand it to include donors and institutions from additional Appalachian states.

The 15 fellows gathered this week at

North American River Runners to meet each other and participate in an outdoor leadership adventure that included whitewater rafting. In addition, the foundation will give each of them a laptop computer.

There will also be a reception to introduce the 2006 inaugural class of fellows in August at the offices of law firm Jackson Kelly, one of the foundation's sponsors.

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