

**News from Oak Ridge Public Schools Education Foundation
For Immediate Release
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Anna Reddick Wins Scholarship for Himalayan Study

Anna Reddick hoped to study abroad in a place she wouldn't normally have the opportunity to travel. A scholarship will help her achieve that goal as she pursues anthropology studies in a remote area of the Himalayan Mountains this summer.

Reddick, a sophomore at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, is the third recipient of the Dr. Adrian R. Lawler Exchange Student Scholarship established in 2008 for students from Oak Ridge.

Lawler, an Oak Ridge High School graduate who was the second student here to participate in an American Field Service international exchange program, wanted to encourage students attending Oak Ridge schools or recent graduates to participate in international study programs and educational trips. He designated the Oak Ridge Public Schools Education Foundation to administer the scholarship.

An AFS exchange student in Sweden during the summer of 1957, Lawler established the scholarship to offer students opportunities to gain tolerance and understanding of people from other cultures.

Reddick looks forward to experiencing a culture far different from her own during the 24-day study abroad program offered through ETSU's Anthropology Department. Students and professors will travel to an area of India once part of the Guge Empire of Tibet, at the edge of the western Tibetan Plateau.

The Himalayan Health Exchange Anthropology Expedition will take the students to an area where travel was restricted until 1992. Staying in field camps for part of the trip, the students will study ancient Western Himalayan cultures and religions, visiting the highest permanent human settlement in the world, an ancient Tibetan monastic village, and the home of the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet.

"We will be studying not only the religious aspect but the health issues there, as well. That includes medical practices and customs of Himalayan people and traditional Tibetan medicine," Reddick said. She said the group will proceed carefully as it ascends the high altitudes of the Himalayas.

The Lawler Scholarship, she said, was key to helping her afford the anthropology study in the Himalayas.

"Even through the trip is months away, I already know that my journey to India will be one that greatly alters my perspective on many aspects of my life. I look forward to even

the roughest parts of the trip because I know that I will come out of the trip a better and more rounded person,” Reddick wrote in her application for the scholarship.

A 2008 graduate of Oak Ridge High School, Reddick is a journalism major who plans a second major in anthropology at ETSU. While in high school, she worked for *the Oak Ridge Observer* and continues writing articles as a freelance journalist for the *Observer*. In the summer of 2009, Reddick worked as a counselor for the Ulster Project of East Tennessee. She is the daughter of Steve and Vickie Reddick.

Lawler, a retired marine biologist now living in Mississippi, hoped the scholarship would result in experiences like those Reddick will have. The scholarship is intended to cover part of the costs of study abroad or educational travel and encourages students to earn money to contribute to their experience.

The Oak Ridge Public Schools Education Foundation is administering the scholarship with a five-member scholarship committee. The next deadline for applications to the foundation for the scholarship is **February 12**. The Education Foundation, a non-profit organization founded in 2000, provides funds beyond public tax dollars for education, raising funds through grants and private donations to invest in enhanced educational programming, innovative technology, and state-of-the-art facilities for teachers and students. For more information, see the foundation’s web site at www.orpsef.org.