

# Senior class selects Bridges scholarship as class gift

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Staff Writer

The Association of Furman Students (AFS) announced Wednesday, Nov. 5 that the class of 2009 voted for the Bridges to a Brighter Future scholarship as the senior class gift.

"I think the senior class chose this option because we would like to see other students who normally might not be able to attend Furman, be afforded the same opportunities of receiving a quality education as we all have," said Montrelle Robertson, senior class president.

The Bridges for a Brighter Future is a multi-step, three-year program that benefits students, who due to certain circumstances, may not have the opportunity to attend college. High school teachers and counselors within Greenville County nominate rising sophomores to join the program and continue to attend the program maintaining a 3.0 grade point average throughout their remaining years of high school.

Once admitted, the students will attend a summer program at Furman where they take classes and learn valuable life skills. The stu-

dents that graduate from this rigorous program are eligible to receive annual scholarship assistance.

According to its website, the Bridges program's mission is "to provide students with opportunities to grow and learn, the tools necessary to successfully graduate from high school, and guide them toward the best post-high school academic placement."

Seniors Emily Robinson and Casey Crisp headed the campaign for the scholarship.

"The Bridges program helps to open doors for otherwise disadvantaged students," said Robinson. "Many reach the ultimate door — college — and find it closed due to a financial burden their families cannot bear. The Bridges scholarship will ensure that if an exceptional Bridges student wants to attend Furman and is accepted, then money will not be an obstacle to that college degree."

"The program has inspired so many lives over the years," said senior Scott Davis in support of the scholarship.

AFS Secretary Brandon Anderson agreed saying,

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"The seniors made the right choice since the scholarship is the "gift that keeps on giving to Furman and the Greenville community."

Seniors also have the opportunity to donate their \$400 housing deposit to receive a personalized brick placed in the anniversary walk of the Bell Tower.

Other options up for selection were the installation of a green space for North Village, a donation to either Habitat for Humanity or the Cargo of Dreams project sponsored by Heller Service Corps and Africa Rising.

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