

NEWS RELEASE

South Central Community Foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **SOUTH BARBER SENIOR RECEIVES “DOC” PIERSALL SCHOLARSHIP**

Kelsie Johnston, daughter of James and Karla Johnston of Kiowa is the recipient of the Leland “Doc” Piersall Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to the Valedictorian of the graduating class of South Barber High School.

Johnston has maintained a 3.96 grade point average while being actively involved in school and community activities. She plans to major in English education at Fort Hays State University. “It is an honor to receive this award and I am very grateful,” says Johnston. Denise Unruh, executive director of South Central Community Foundation says, “Kelsie is a lovely young woman who will be an asset to the educational system.”

The Leland “Doc” Piersall earned his nickname while growing up on the family farm in Oklahoma when he was caught trying to imitate the local veterinarian. As a young man, “Doc” served in the Civilian Conservation Corps, and later joined the Army and served during WWII reaching the rank of staff sergeant.

He and his wife Gloria met at a USO dance in Massachusetts where Gloria was teaching school. When she was told she would be serving her country by going to the dance to cheer up the soldiers, she reluctantly went not realizing she would meet her future husband.

As the city maintenance worker in Hardtner, KS for 35 years, “Doc” was well known by the residents. He also served as deputy sheriff for 17 years. He loved the people and children of Hardtner, and this scholarship is his way of giving back to the children and community that he loved.

The Leland “Doc” Piersall Scholarship is awarded to Johnston through the South Central Community Foundation, a regional foundation that manages charitable funds for seven south-central Kansas counties. For more information about the foundation, please call 620-672-7929.