

Dr. Harold S. Aycock Memorial Scholarship – This scholarship was established in 2024 by friends and family of Dr. Harold S. Aycock. Dr. Aycock grew up on a crop, timber, and livestock farm in the Hero and Fellowship communities of North Jasper County, MS. Dr. Aycock was the youngest of four children. He graduated from Hickory High School in 1962 where he played basketball and was active in the Future Farmers of American chapter. After graduating from high school, he attended ECCC and majored in agriculture. After graduation from ECCC in 1964, he transferred to Mississippi State University and graduated in 1966 with a B.S. degree in Agronomy Crops. He stayed at MSU as a graduate student and earned a M.S. degree in Plant Breeding and Genetics while working in the corn genetic research program.

In the fall of 1968, he started his Ph.D. program in the Agronomy Department at Purdue University where he continued his research. After completing his Ph.D., he stayed at Purdue and worked for a year as a post-doctoral research associate and then in 1973-1974 returned to the classroom at Purdue to earn a M.S. in Management. He spent his professional career in both the public and private sectors as a research scientist working in the area of corn breeding and genetics, Dr. Aycock worked for several hybrid corn seed companies including Kraft Foods. He also was on the faculty at Virginia Tech for six years.

Dr. Aycock was responsible for establishing the following endowed scholarship at ECCC – the Richard L. Harris Scholarship, the James E. Land Memorial Scholarship, the Rev. John Lambert Neill Memorial Scholarship, the Frances Aycock Johnson and Jo Ann Aycock Thomas Scholarship, and a supplemental scholarship endowment to make sure his endowed scholarships funded for at least \$500 per year. He also helped establish the Class of 1964 Scholarship endowment. He once commented that an endowed scholarship was a good way to continuously honor the lifetime efforts and achievements of individuals that shared their knowledge and provided important positive support for students. Dr. Aycock fully understood the benefit of helping students start and continue their education through scholarship awards.

Candidates for the scholarship award must meet the following criteria:

1. Be a resident of Newton County;
2. Be an enrolled full-time incoming freshman or a returning student who has attained sophomore standing; and
3. Have a 3.0 grade point average;

The ECCC Foundation Scholarship Committee will select a scholarship recipient annually. The scholarship will be awarded for the fall and spring semesters of the recipient's freshman year. The amount of the scholarship award will be based upon earnings from the endowment corpus. No part of the corpus may be used for scholarship awards. Only the interest earned on the endowment corpus will be used for the scholarship award.

There will be no refund to the student for money not used to fund his/her education at ECCC. In the event a scholarship is not awarded in any year, the interest that would have been used to fund the scholarship will be deposited in the scholarship endowment.