

Laura Reeves Thorne Memorial Scholarship – This scholarship was established in 2022 in memory of Laura Reeves Thorne. Mrs. Thorne was a native of Newton County where she grew up on a dairy farm. She was a 1981 graduate of Decatur High School where she was a cheerleader and played basketball. She graduated from East Central in 1983 with an Associate of Applied Science degree and in 1989 with an Associate of Arts degree. Laura also received her Bachelor of Public Accounting degree in 1990 from Mississippi State University. She was an accountant for East Central in the Business Office where she worked for over 34 years until her death in 2019. She was an active member of Clarke-Venable Baptist Church for 30 years where she helped with the nursery and youth activities for numerous years. She enjoyed traveling, spending time with her family, and being outdoors. She will be remembered as a loving person that was willing to help others.

To be eligible, scholarship recipients must meet the following criteria:

- Resident of Newton County with a 3.0 minimum GPA in high school;
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) member in high school (two-year minimum participation);
- Must be a Fellowship of Christian Athletes Intern at East Central; and
- Must have letter of recommendation from FCA leadership and home church pastor.

The East Central Community College Scholarship Committee will screen and select recipients from qualified applicants. The amount awarded will be based upon earnings from the endowment corpus. To maintain the fund ad infinitum, no amount of the corpus may be used for scholarship awards. Should no qualified recipient be awarded in any given year, the interest accrued will be deposited into the endowment corpus.