

**Chief Mickey Yates Firefighter Memorial Scholarship** - This scholarship was established in September of 2024 by the children of Mickey Yates – Tyler Yates, Zachary Yates, and Kaylee Yates.

Chief Mickey Yates was a lifetime resident of Newton County. He attended Decatur High School and, after graduating, began his career at Lay-Z-Boy, where he would work until his passing. In his early 20's Mickey, his mother, Nancy Yates Thorne, and his uncle, Houston Leach were the sole members of Greenfield Volunteer Fire Department. After becoming chief at 24, Mickey, with the help of dedicated members of the Greenfield community, grew the Greenfield Fire Department to be one of the largest volunteer fire departments in the county.

During his tenure as Chief of Greenfield Mickey obtained multiple grants allowing Greenfield to bolster their fleet of fire engines, expand the primary Greenfield Fire Station to allow additional fire engines, build a satellite station to decrease response times for emergency personnel, and increase certified volunteer membership. Due to this, Greenfield increased the station's Fire Safety Rating, reducing insurance premiums for all residents in the community. On July 6th, 2013, while responding to an emergency call, Chief Yates passed away after being involved in a motor accident. Due to his dedication to the Greenfield Fire Department and falling in the line of duty, Chief Mickey was inducted into the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation "Roll of Honor" in 2014.

The Chief Mickey Yates Firefighter Memorial Scholarship will be awarded annually. To be eligible, a candidate must:

- Enroll as a full-time student at ECCC;
- Reside in the college's five-county district; and
- Have a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Preference will be given to a son or daughter of a fallen firefighter, EMT, or officer. Secondary preference will be given to a son or daughter of an active firefighter, EMT, or officer.

The ECCC Foundation Scholarship Committee will select a scholarship recipient, and the scholarship will be awarded for the fall and spring semesters. 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.