

Success after loss

Roadway Worker Memorial Scholarship recipient advances after tragedy

It was more than 20 years ago when Shannon Pair of Spiro, Oklahoma, was working to remove pavement markings on a bypass in a nearby town called Mountain Home. The 31-year-old was struck and killed that Wednesday night, leaving behind his wife and two-year-old daughter Andrea Pair.

Now in her early 20s, Andrea Pair is a pharmacy student at Harding University College of Pharmacy and one of The Foundation's Roadway Worker Memorial Scholarship recipients. Pair said she first learned about ATSSA and The Foundation in high school when she was asked to attend a ceremony where the National Work Zone Memorial was displayed to honor her father and other roadway workers killed in work zone crashes.

"When I first heard the scholarship program's slogan of 'Moving toward zero scholarships,' I was thrown off because it's such a great program that helps so many young people, but I realized it's about working to reach a goal of having zero roadway worker deaths and that is so important," Pair said. "It's a goal we need to reach. For ATSSA and The Foundation to have that vision means they are working in many ways to help roadway workers and their families."

During her senior year in high school, Pair was a recipient of the scholarship and was the first member of her family to attend college, earning her Bachelor's degree in 2018. Now, Pair is working on attaining her doctorate in pharmacology along with her MBA, and still receives tuition assistance from The Foundation's scholarship program.

"Aside from receiving financial support from the scholarship, I've met so many incredible people who have supported me," Pair said. "I come from a smaller family and from a family that didn't

attend college, so in high school it was hard to see myself going as far as I have. I always dreamed about going far with my education, but I never had anyone to talk to about how to get there. Through ATSSA, I met those people and so many other people in the same circumstances I was. Meeting people who still strive to succeed despite their circumstances was amazing and life changing."

Pair said that The Foundation's President Tom Wood has been a continuous source of encouragement.



Andrea Pair recently attended her white coat ceremony, which is an event students go through before joining the pharmacy program on Aug. 17.


The Foundation's Mission

The American Traffic Safety Services Foundation (The Foundation) exists to promote roadway safety through charitable giving and public awareness programs.

“All of The Foundation’s program participants are incredibly inspiring,” Wood said. “Having been through the tragic experience of losing a loved one, it is such an honor to be able to provide any amount of support to help them progress. Whether through our scholarship program or through travel scholarships like our Experience Camps program,

we’re committed to helping those who have been affected by fatalities on our nation’s roadways.”

Looking ahead, Pair plans to open her own pharmacy and said she will continue working with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation as part of an initiative to encourage college students to drive sober.

The Foundation encourages ATSSA members and all roadway safety infrastructure industry professionals to share the Roadway Worker Memorial Scholarship with eligible individuals. 

Visit www.atssa.com/TheFoundation for more information.



Pair’s father was struck and killed in a work zone when she was just two years old. With the support and scholarship funds of The Foundation, she has persevered and is now a pharmacy student in Oklahoma.

