

2025 CHS Albert J. Blaha Memorial Scholarship was Awarded to Cadence Kubacak

The Czech Heritage Society of Texas (CHS) is proud to announce Cadence Kubacak from West, Texas in McLennan County as the recipient of the 2025 Albert J. Blaha Memorial Scholarship. She is graduating from West High School then plans to attend Texas A&M University in College Station. Cadence has been accepted into Mays Business School pursuing a degree in accounting. Her goal is to apply for the Professional Program in Accounting (PPA), which allows students to earn both a bachelor's and master's degree in five years but with her dual credit hours earned in high school she hopes to complete the program in four years. After graduation, she plans to take the CPA exam to become a certified public accountant then work for an accounting firm. Her goal is to advance to a management or executive level.

Beyond her classroom studies, Cadence has proven to be a leader within her high school organizations. She served as co-captain of the Dazzler dance team and won personal and team awards with the West High School competitive dance team. Cadence was elected by her peers to be the historian of the National Honor Society and secretary of the Junior Historians, the school's Czech dance group.

In the community, Cadence is active in the Teen RISE group as Co-Director for their upcoming retreat. She is a dedicated supporter of Westfest, the local Czech festival where she competed for the title of Miss Westfest, participated in the parade, and volunteered working at food booths in addition to her performances with the Junior Historians where she continues the traditions of her Czech ancestors through music and dance.

Cadence stated, "My Czech Heritage is something I deeply cherish and take pride in representing. Staying connected to my roots has given me the opportunity to share this rich culture with those around me." She is proud to have designed her own Kroj using authentic fabrics from the region in the Czech Republic where her family is from. She says her dad taught her to dance the polka when she was five and her grandmother and great aunts taught her Strudel making. Cadence explained that she takes considerable pride in her heritage, preserving Czech traditions and engaging in community activities that honor her ancestors.

I am very excited to be receiving the Albert J. Blaha Memorial Scholarship! This award will undoubtedly help me pursue my academic goals. I am very grateful for this wonderful opportunity. Thanks & Gig'em!



2025 CHS Victor Peter Memorial Scholarship was Awarded to Dallyn Pesek



The Czech Heritage Society of Texas (CHS) is proud to announce Dallyn Pesek from Shiner, Texas in Lavaca County as the recipient of the 2025 Victor Peter Memorial Scholarship. She is graduating from St. Paul High School and will attend The University of Texas at Austin this Fall majoring in biology with the intent of attending medical school and becoming a physician in the future. Afterwards, she plans to work in a rural area like Shiner so she can give back to underserved medical areas while continuing to enjoy the rich traditions of living in a Czech community.

While maintaining a 4.0 grade point average, Dallyn has been active in student government, youth ministry, a five-sport athlete, and served the state as Miss Texas Teen USA 2024. Her community service includes coaching a special needs cheer team, directing a special needs pageant, volunteering as a coach for Special Olympics, serving as a spokesperson for Best Buddies, and volunteering with the Arc of Texas advocating at the Texas Capitol for the needs of people with IDD (intellectual and developmental disabilities). A highlight of her volunteer work was receiving the Gordon Hartmann Foundation Heart of Gold award given to those who are improving the lives of those with special needs. While in college and in her future career, she plans to continue to advocate for her special needs friends to ensure they are given the same opportunities she has received.

Dallyn's family, in particular her parents and grandparents, encouraged her at an early age to learn and participate in her Czech culture. She did this in a variety of ways like making strudels with her grandma for church and school fundraisers, serving as co-chairman of the auction with her parents at the Shiner Catholic Church Picnics, and watching her relatives play Tarock at Christmas and family reunions. Living in the heart of where early Czechs first settled, Dallyn has visited and learned more about her Czech heritage at places like the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center in La Grange and by visiting the painted churches which helped her better understand the strong faith of her Czech descendants.

Dallyn chose her Grandmother Novosad as her Family Member who best represents the Czech Heritage. She explains, "It was Grandma who spent the afternoons with me while mom and dad were still at work, teaching me to roll out noodles, make kolaches and kapanki soup, and dance to polka and waltzes." From these early dancing lessons Dallyn was able to perfect her Czech dancing at the Shiner Picnics and Czech weddings. Regarding her grandma's influence to learn and treasure her heritage, Dallyn stated, "I hope to one day continue my Grandma Novosad's traditions with my children and even take a Czech class at UT in college to better learn the language that unites the Czech people."

In Dallyn's acknowledgement of receiving this award, she wrote "I am honored and forever grateful to the Czech Heritage Society for their generosity as I receive the Victor Peter Memorial Scholarship. I am humbled by the award and truly appreciate the support as I take my next step toward my future!"