

The Feyerabend Polak Foundation is pleased to announce that Dystne Hodge is the 2026 recipient of our college bound student scholarship. Dystne is a graduate of Bainbridge-Guilford Central School. She will be attending Gaston College where she will be majoring in Early Childhood Education.

For Dystne, community service has played a major role in shaping who she is today. Through volunteering, work and community service, she has learned the importance of empathy, patience and compassion. During her time volunteering, she helped prepare meals for families in need. She found that having conversations with the families was just as important as the food they were providing. “Those interactions reminded me that kindness can have a powerful impact.”

Dystne’s plan is to go to Gaston College in North Carolina to further her education. Her passion for helping others led her to pursue a degree in Early Childhood Education. She wants to work with young children and provide extra support to those who may struggle academically, socially, or emotionally. “Through my volunteer work, I have developed the patience, empathy, and communication skills necessary to support students from all backgrounds.”

She hopes to have the opportunity to travel and learn about different cultures around the world and that would help her grow both personally and professionally. “No matter where someone comes from, everyone deserves kindness, support, and the opportunity to succeed.” This embodies the mission of the Feyerabend Polak Foundation. Once again, we congratulate Dystne on her accomplishments and can’t wait to see her future success. In closing, we’ll leave you a quote of Dystne’s that is perfectly in line with the Feyerabend Polak Foundation.

*“By understanding and appreciating diverse perspectives, I can better meet the needs of my students, build stronger relationships with them all while creating a learning environment where everyone can feel supported to reach their full potential.”*