

# 1979 HRRMC Auxiliary Scholarship recipient gives thanks to foundation

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Editor

One look in a microscope during a health career night at Salida High School changed the trajectory of Steve Howerton's life. "When I looked, it felt like I hit the jackpot at a casino. It triggered every bell, light and whistle," he said.

Within a week of that experience, Howerton had made a plan, set a course and "never deviated from it."

A piece of realizing his dream was receiving the Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center Auxiliary scholarship in 1979 for \$2,000.

"That scholarship was the icing on the cake and the only one I got. It doesn't sound like a lot now, but it was huge for myself and my parents."

A few weeks ago, Howerton wrote an email to Lezlie Burkey, HRRMC Foundation director, thanking the foun-



Steve Howerton

dation for that scholarship.

In it he wrote, "I just wanted to take a moment to express my thanks to the HRRMC Auxiliary for their support all those years ago. As I get nearer to retirement, I have had occasion to reflect. I am grateful for all of those who contributed to my career, in many different ways."

Currently, Howerton works as a laboratory director at Emory University Healthcare in Atlanta, Georgia.

He referred to his life as a "series of very fortunate events," which includes his wife of 42 years, who once worked as a Candy Striper at the old Salida Hospital.

"I don't think I could have asked for anything more from my career and life," he wrote.

The HRRMC Auxiliary scholarship that will be awarded this year is an annual amount of \$1,000 to be awarded for four recurring years, subject to the renewal process each year. The deadline for Salida, Buena Vista and Cotopaxi graduating seniors is March 22. The applicant must be heading to college to pursue a career in the health field. For more information visit [HRRMC.com/foundation/foundation-scholarships](http://HRRMC.com/foundation/foundation-scholarships).