



## High School Woman of Excellence & Recipient of the LLWC Foundation Scholarship:

*Tabitha Ann Kearns*

Edward Douglas White Catholic High School  
Thibodaux, Louisiana

A graduating senior at Edward Douglas White Catholic High School in Thibodaux, Louisiana, Tabitha Kearns is appreciative of the opportunities afforded her to express leadership, serve her community, minister to peers, and better her school. At school, Tabitha became a servant leader through Key Club, where she served as the eighth grade and freshman class representative and later became vice president in 2012. She was later inspired to undertake an even greater leadership role in the club by becoming lieutenant-governor of her division. Serving as lieutenant governor of the Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District, she supervised thirteen clubs in Lafourche, Terrebonne, and Saint Mary parishes. In 2014, Tabitha became the governor of the three-state district, where she served 150 active clubs and led a district board consisting of thirteen lieutenant governors and three executive officers. As governor, she chose to heighten the club's efforts by supporting The Eliminate Project, a special initiative in which Kiwanis is partnered with UNICEF to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT) from the world. Through this partnership, midwives are educated on safe birthing practices and mothers are immunized, protecting them and their future offspring from this deadly disease. During Tabitha's term as governor, the district managed to raise approximately \$25,000, which amounted to about 13,000 lives saved from MNT. In her five years as a Key Clubber, Tabitha has devoted approximately 900 hours in service to her home, school, and community.

Raised Catholic and educated in Catholic schools, Tabitha is grateful to her parents and teachers for having so invested in her faith formation. Because she is grounded in faith, Tabitha longed to find a community

of like-minded teens. Seeing the need, she approached her principal and won support in the founding of a group called Sisters in Christ, which allows teens to discuss social pressures and share in one another's spiritual journeys. Active in Houma-Diocese Youth Ministry events, Tabitha has not only participated in retreats but has also been a small group leader and retreat presenter. One of the defining moments of her life was participating in the 2014 March for Life in our nation's capital.

Devoted to the life of her school, Tabitha is also a member of the National Honor Society, Campus Ministry, Retreat Team, Pro-Life Club, Teenage Republican Club, and Student Ambassadors. In her career, Tabitha has been named outstanding Key Clubber for five consecutive years, Outstanding Vice President in the district, Distinguished Lieutenant Governor, National Honor Society Good Character, Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen, Thibodaux Chamber of Commerce Teenager of the Year, Houma-Thibodaux Diocese Student of the Year, Outstanding Diocesan Youth Leader and an E.D. White Honor Graduate. She has also been a superior rated pianist for fourteen years and was selected as one of only six teens to perform in the Nicholls State University Monster Piano Concert.

Tabitha will be attending Louisiana State University in the Fall 2015 semester and majoring in biology with a concentration in pre-medicine with aspirations of becoming a Pediatric Oncologist.