

# Virginia Press WOMEN FOUNDATION

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**For Immediate Release**

**Virginia Press Women Foundation Names Winner of Agnes Cooke Scholarship**  
*Virginia Wesleyan University student awarded \$2,000*



*Lily Reslink (Photo credit: Laila Jones / The Marlink Chronicle)*

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va., June 19, 2024 — The [Virginia Press Women Foundation](#) is proud to announce Lily Reslink, a media and communication major at Virginia Wesleyan University, as the 2024 winner of the [Agnes Cooke Scholarship](#).

Reslink has won a \$2,000 scholarship to assist with education expenses and a student membership in [Virginia Professional Communicators](#) (VPC). She has also been invited to attend VPC's spring conference in 2025.

"To be selected as an Agnes Cooke Scholarship winner is a significant achievement, and we are proud to announce Lily Reslink as our 2024 winner," said Kimberly Loehr, president of the Virginia Press Women Foundation. "Lily's application was among several outstanding entries we received, and Lily has every reason to take pride in her achievements within the journalism and communications student community. We are excited to see what she will accomplish and contribute to these fields in the future."

In her application, Reslink wrote about her career goals. "I aim to pursue news journalism, whether it be print or online. Whatever sector that I land in, it is important to me that I am able to write. I believe in the power of amplifying voices, telling stories that matter and evoking positive change."

As a sophomore, Reslink served as the news editor for the university's newspaper, *The Marlin Chronicle*, which she said deepened her commitment to storytelling and effective communication. "I will be proud to continue these pursuits in Spring 2025 when I step into the Editor-in-Chief position upon returning from my fall semester abroad in Seoul, South Korea."

Reslink added, "Journalism has called me to so many important milestones and passions, serving as the foundation for much of my personal and professional growth. I feel beyond thankful to receive this level of recognition for the work I have dedicated to the craft thus far. I am excited to continue down the path it leads me down."

The Agnes Cooke Memorial Scholarship honors a charter member of what was then called Virginia Press Women, which was founded in 1958. Today VPW is known as Virginia Professional Communicators. Agnes Cooke, who lived in Kinsale, served as VPW president from 1964 to 1966. Described by the Kinsale Foundation as "an inveterate newshound and editor," Cooke won an award for the photo she took (while clad in her nightgown and with cold cream on her face in the wee hours of the morning, as the story goes) of the tragic fire that claimed the historic Kinsale Methodist Church on Oct. 18, 1969.

She was well known in the Northern Neck of Virginia for the columns she wrote and edited for 35 years chronicling the everyday events in her community for the Northern Neck News and the Northumberland Echo. In 1985, Cooke was honored by the Kinsale Foundation for "years of promoting and securing the well-being of the community." Shortly after her death in 1991, VPW created the foundation that now administers the scholarships in her honor.

The Virginia Press Women Foundation is a nonprofit which supports student excellence in communications through its annual scholarship program. The group raises money and awards scholarships to outstanding college students who wish to pursue careers in journalism, public relations and other related fields. Learn more about VPWF at [vpwfoundation.org](http://vpwfoundation.org).

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