

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ROAD SCHOLAR FRIENDSHIP STORIES FINALIST FORMS UNBREAKABLE BOND WITH WOMEN WHO SHARE HER LOVE OF PHOTOGRAPHY AND NATURE

BOSTON (April 7, 2015) – As Road Scholar celebrates 40 years as the leader in lifelong learning, the not-for-profit organization invited participants to share stories that highlights friendships and relationships that were made or strengthened on its iconic learning adventures. Carol West, of Greenville, South Carolina, has an incredible story to share.

Several years ago, Carol and two friends—Kathleen and Barry—enrolled in a Road Scholar adventure that took them to Zion, Bryce and the Grand Canyon. While there, a fellow participant dubbed them the “Dixie Chicks” because they were all from the South and the name stuck. Even though there is a 20-year age difference between them, they’ve developed a bond that has provided support and solace, laughter and love.

“Although we bring home beautiful photos from our Road Scholar programs, the best souvenirs have been the wonderful memories,” said Carol. “As we have learned and traveled with Road Scholar, our photographic skills have improved and our friendship has grown even stronger. We’re looking forward to more opportunities to travel together and make new friends.”

Because of their age difference, the friends acknowledge that theirs is an unlikely friendship. Barry says their friendship was formed at their local Lifelong Learning Institute but solidified on their annual Road Scholar adventures. Since then, every fall, they take a Road Scholar adventure together, photo-documenting their journey.

“When we thought about how to commemorate our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we knew that friendship and learning would be at the core of our celebration,” said James Moses, President and CEO of Road Scholar. “Stories of friendship, love and personal growth from our 12 finalists are uplifting and wonderfully illustrative of the deep relationships that form when people come together to learn — friendship and learning are integral parts of the Road Scholar experience.”

Carol is one of 12 finalists from around the country who if selected, will win a \$5,000 Road Scholar gift certificate. Voting is already underway and remains open until July 31, 2015. If you’d like to vote for Carol, please visit our online voting page at [www.roadscholar.org/friendscontest](http://www.roadscholar.org/friendscontest). Everyone is allowed to vote once each day. The winner will be announced in our September North America catalog.

### **About Road Scholar**

Not-for-profit Road Scholar's mission is to inspire adults to learn, discover and travel. Our learning adventures engage expert instructors, provide extraordinary access, and stimulate discourse and friendship among people for whom learning is the journey of a lifetime. Since inception, more than 5 million people have enrolled in our 5,500 iconic educational adventures offered annually in 50 states and 150 countries around the world.

Road Scholar educational adventures are created by Elderhostel, the not-for-profit world leader in lifelong learning since 1975. To learn more, please visit our website at [www.road scholar.org/press](http://www.road scholar.org/press).

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