The Stanley M. Zedalis Military Affiliated Student Scholarship is an annual grant of $500 designed to support a military connected student enrolled at UNCSA while honoring the service of a disabled veteran of the US Armed Forces. The scholarship is open to all UNCSA graduate, undergraduate and high school students who meet the eligibility requirements. During 2018, a grant of $500 will be awarded to two recipients. The Scholarship is to provide money for educational supplies/costs. Award recipients are selected by the UNCSA Military-Connected Student Task Force.

This year's scholarship honors Staff Sergeant Derek Oliver of the US Army. Staff Sergeant Oliver is a recipient of two Bronze Awards. One was awarded for Action Under Fire and the other was for leading a tour of 8,000 soldiers without casualties or injuries.

2020 Honoree — Staff Sergeant Derek Oliver
Two Bronze Awards Recipient
Recipient is First Year student in the School of Drama (Class of 2024)

Staff Sergeant Derek Oliver is a retired soldier who served in the United States Army. Staff Sergeant Oliver completed two tours of duty. He served during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, also in Iraq.

During his first tour, Staff Sergeant Oliver received a bronze star for Actions Under Fire. He received a second Bronze Award in last tour. Staff Sergeant Oliver oversaw the Base Defense Operation Center with 8,000 soldiers. He was able to lead and protect them successfully without any casualties or injuries.

Ultimately while serving, Staff Sergeant Oliver sustained an injury during combat which led to his medical retirement.

Staff Sergeant Oliver currently serves as Director of Advance Emergency Medical Technical with Greenwood County in South Carolina. Having began as an EMT, later a paramedic, then Crew Chief and ultimately a Director, Staff Sergeant Oliver completed years of education and climbed the ranks in this new field as a result of his work ethic and tenacity in the same capacity in how he served in the military.