

Niagara Wheatfield Community Boosters awards scholarships to eight 2020 graduates

Recently, Ann D. Bishara, President of the NW Community Boosters, presented eight scholarships to seniors of the Niagara Wheatfield Class of 2020. This year due to COVID-19, Bishara made the best out of an unfortunate situation and handed out the scholarships from her driveway.

•**Akashpreet Grewal** is the son of Harinder Kaur and Avtar Grewal of North Tonawanda. He was the North Tonawanda class of 2020 valedictorian, made the High Honor roll for four years and had perfect attendance for two years.

Akashpreet is a 3-time recipient of the NW Academic Honors Award. He also received the NW Teachers Association Falcon Pride Award and the New York State Comptroller Achievement Award.

As a member of NW cross-country and tennis teams, he was named All Western New York Spring Scholar Athlete 2020. He is also a member of the Outdoor Club, Pep Club, Interact Club, DECA, LYNC and Student Council.

Akashpreet has volunteered at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, West Street Elementary School and participated in the 2019 U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad Local Competition.

Akashpreet will attend the State University at Buffalo and major in Biochemical Science and continue his education in Medical School.

•**Danielle Carlson** is the daughter of Jennifer and the late John Carlson of North Tonawanda. Danielle was the salutatorian of the Niagara Wheatfield Class of 2020 as well as a member of the National Honor Society. She also received the New York State Seal of Bi-literacy, the Robert Forsythe Memorial Award (female highest GPA), and earned her advanced regents diploma with mastery in math and science.

Danielle has been a member of DECA, Falcon Athlete Advisory Student Team (FAAST), Youth Activation Committee for Special Olympics Unified Sports, and Girl-up Club, as well as a peer tutor of O'Brian's ASAP program. She also volunteered with supply and food collections for the Jacob's House in Buffalo during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Danielle plans to attend Michigan State University and major in chemical engineering and minor in computational mathematics, science and engineering. She is excited to be a member of the Woman in Engineering Program (WIE) and the club swim team.

•**Mackenzie Jacobs** is the daughter of John and Norma Jeanne Jacobs of North Tonawanda. Mackenzie is a member of the National Honor Society and the National Society of High School Scholars, had perfect attendance the last four years, and received the Falcon Pride Award 2017.

Mackenzie has participated in JV and varsity soccer, Kenmore United Travel Soccer and Kenmore Soccer Club and was also a member of the concert and symphonic bands.

Mackenzie plans to attend the University at Buffalo majoring in civil engineering.

•**Francesca Giaquinto** is the daughter of Joseph and LuAnn Giaquinto of Niagara Falls. She is a member of the National Honor Society, received an Academic Honor Award, Falcon Pride Award (2016), is a member of DECA and winner of DECA Regionals Competitions.

Francesca participated in the NW varsity bowling program and won the Varsity Sports Award and the Sportsmanship Award. She has also participated in the Lewis Art Festival and Carnegie Art Center "Art off the Wall" charity.

Francesca currently volunteers at the Riviera Theatre serving as an usher, and helps with various events at West Street Elementary School.

Francesca received a Buffalo State College Presidential scholarship and plans on attending this fall majoring in psychology.

•**Cara Janowsky** is the daughter of Brian and Audrey Janowsky of North Tonawanda. She was the co-president of the NW Class of 2020 and a member of the National Honor Society.

Cara was chosen as a representative on the NW Board of Edu-

cation, received a Falcon Price Award and is a member of LYNC. She was selected for both All-County and All-State Bands and toured Europe playing in concerts in Freedom with American Music Abroad and is now considered an alumnus.

Cara participated in JV Soccer where she served as captain, as well as JV track and field. She has volunteered in various organizations at school and church, visited nursing homes, and has tutored students at Niagara Wheatfield High School.

Cara plans to attend the College of St. Rose and major in clinical psychology.

•**Mackenzie Patterson** is the daughter of John and Jennifer Patterson of North Tonawanda. She has been a member of the National Honor Society, the Performing and Visual Arts Society, LYNC, and Pep Club.

Mackenzie participated in JV and varsity tennis programs, where she received the Unsung Hero Award, MVP Award and Coaches Award. She also served as varsity track and field captain, dance assistant at Jaclyn Carol's Dance Academy, and was selected for All-County and All-State as part of the chorus program.

Mackenzie has done volunteer work for the Roswell Street Team, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center High School Volunteer Program, McGuire Group Northgate Nursing Facility, Oishei Children's Hospital, Cornell Cooperative Extension and Military Kids Camp.

Mackenzie plans to attend the University of Detroit Mercy as a pre-med major with a focus in biology and eventually be accepted into medical school.

•**Christiano Casilio** is the son of Anthony and Lori Casilio of Niagara Falls and is a member of the National Honor Society and Student Council.

Christiano earned his Eagle Scout rank with Boy Scout Troop 841 leading the Eagle Scout "Project For Sight" where he and his troop collected over 1000 pairs of glasses for the needy. He has also volunteered his time with Art Park cleanup and as a Manager of the track and field concession stand.

Christiano was awarded the Elwin Nichols Award for dedication and leadership towards the NW Boys Swim and Dive Team, Awarded the NW Academic Honors and received both his Red and Gold letters. He served as captain on the varsity swim and track and field teams, as well as captain for both the JV and varsity soccer teams.

Christiano also received a St. Bonaventure Presidential scholarship where he will attend this fall to major in biology.

•**Brianna Zayatz** is the daughter of Corey and Theresa Zayatz of North Tonawanda. She is a member of the National Honor Society and has been awarded the Falcon Pride Award for Art twice, the Niagara Police Athletic League's Comeback Athlete of the Year Award, Second Team All-NY Soccer Award, Niagara County Sheriff's All-Star scholarship and was a Thomas E. Hewitt Sports Award NW female nominee.

Brianna has volunteered at the Miracle League of Grand Island being a buddy for disabled adults and children for the past two summers and hopes to continue this coming summer. She volunteered at Adopt-A-Family, North Tonawanda Public Library and tutored students at Niagara Wheatfield High School. She is also a three-sports Athlete playing soccer, basketball and track and field at the JV and varsity levels.

Brianna plans on attending Daemon College and majoring in physical therapy. She has received the NW Community Booster scholarship, the Daemon Founders scholarship and the Daemon College Achievement Grant.

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Niagara County Community College Foundation announces spring 2021 scholarships available

The Niagara County Community College Foundation Office is offering scholarships for incoming and current part-and-full time students for the spring 2021 semester. All applications are due Friday, Oct. 16.

Available for the spring 2021 semester are the J. Ward Reid Jr.

Memorial Scholarship, the Covanta Community Scholarship, the Nicole M. Argo Memorial Scholarship, and more. Fall 2020 NCCC scholarship recipient Jade Li Fruscione said, "I chose to attend NCCC because of its affordability thanks to the scholarships I received and ease of access. I

am currently attending school for nursing and I hope to be able to use my degree to provide quality care to patients in my community."

To apply for scholarships, visit www.niagaracc.suny.edu/scholarships/. For more information, contact financial aid at finaid@niagaracc.suny.edu or call 614-6205.

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