



DATE: October 6, 2015
CONTACT: Nancy Jennings
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FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

Fostering investment in innovative educational opportunities
to benefit the students of Farmington Public Schools

Farmington/Farmington Hills Education Foundation awards more than \$9,000 in scholarships to outstanding students

FARMINGTON, Mich. – The Board of Trustees of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Education Foundation (FFHEF) is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2015 scholarships. The Foundation manages five different scholarships that help Farmington Public Schools' (FPS) seniors continue their educations. The awards had a wide variety of criteria, and there were many applications submitted for consideration. The scholarships include the Kay Briggs Memorial Scholarship, Farmington Hills Police Officers Association and Grand Tavern Scholarship, the Susan H. Zurvalec Leadership in Diversity Scholarship, the Joan MacKenzie Memorial Vocal Music Scholarship, and the Dan Lee Memorial Scholarship. These awards support the educational advancement of nine outstanding students from three different high schools.

- **Kay Briggs Memorial Scholarship Program-** This award is given in memory of Kay Briggs--a Farmington High School graduate and an active community member and education activist. The recipient of this award must be from Farmington High School and accepted to a Michigan university majoring in education or engineering.
 - The 2015 recipient of the Kay Briggs Memorial Scholarship is **William Greig**, a hardworking and active student who now attends the University of Michigan to study computer engineering.
- **Farmington Hills Police Officers Association and Grand Tavern Scholarship-** This scholarship is awarded to one student from each high school to assist their advancing education at a community college or college/university.
 - The Harrison High School recipient is **Hannah Carleton**. Hannah is a respected, well-rounded student who is now studying business at Michigan State University.
 - The Farmington High School recipient is **Katherine Truitt**, a dedicated student who plans on pursuing her love of nature by studying Earth Science at the University of Michigan Dearborn.
 - The North Farmington High School recipient is **Airriion Wafer**, a hardworking student, who is a perfect fit for the award. The scholarship will help Airriion continue his education at Oakland Community College where he plans to study criminal justice.



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- **Susan H. Zurvalec Leadership in Diversity Scholarship-** This award honors the legacy of retired Farmington Public Schools' Superintendent Susan Zurvalec. The recipient of the scholarship should be an active volunteer to improve race relations in the community.
 - This year's scholarship was given to **Abhijay Kumar**, an outstanding Harrison High School student. Abhijay was President of the Student Roundtable, Co-President of the District Diversity Committee, and has regularly volunteered for causes he believes in. Abhijay is now attending John Hopkins University where he intends to pursue a career in medicine.
- **Joan MacKenzie Memorial Vocal Music Scholarship-** This award is given in memory of Joan Marie MacKenzie, a Michigan Vocal Teacher of the Year and Harrison High School's first choir director when the school opened in 1970. The criteria for selecting the recipient are musicianship and contributions to the school vocal music program. The recipient must also be attending an accredited university music program. The 2015 recipients are:
 - **Anthony Sharpe-** Farmington High School
 - **Margaret Merogi-** Harrison High School
- **Dan Lee Memorial Scholarship-** This scholarship was established in 2002 to remember Dan Lee, a FPS honors student, athlete and artist. The award is given to a Harrison High School senior who serves the community and maintains at least a 3.0 GPA throughout high school. This year's award recipients are:
 - **Sanyu Lukwago**
 - **Kristal Wilson**

"The Education Foundation is honored to manage these scholarships that support so many worthy students," said David Roggenkamp, Board Chair for the Foundation. "It is important for the Foundation to offer a diverse set of scholarship opportunities that allow students to further their educations, which can be financially difficult for many families. By partnering with several community organizations and individuals that share this interest, we have been able to increase the number of scholarships awarded. We also actively pursue expanding those partnerships and creating new opportunities."

To explore setting up a scholarship to benefit FPS students, please contact FFHEF Executive Director Nancy Jennings at director@ffhedfoundation.org.

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The Foundation's mission is to "foster investment in innovative educational opportunities to benefit the students of Farmington Public Schools." Additional information about the Education Foundation and its work is available online at www.ffhedfoundation.org, Facebook and Twitter.