

<i>Mariah Fredenburg</i>	<i>Central Baptist Christian Academy</i>
<i>Scott Gardner</i>	<i>Owego Free Academy</i>
<i>Emily Gibson</i>	<i>Seton Catholic Central High School</i>
<i>Zane Johnson</i>	<i>Spencer Van-Etten High School</i>
<i>Jared Leonard</i>	<i>Deposit High School</i>
<i>Ryan McMahon</i>	<i>Harpursville High School</i>
<i>Megan Pessarchick</i>	<i>Windsor High School</i>
<i>Jacob Rossie</i>	<i>Chenango Valley High School</i>
<i>Stella Safari</i>	<i>Johnson City High School</i>
<i>Tanner Schunk</i>	<i>Sidney High School</i>
<i>Taylor Thomas</i>	<i>Chenango Forks High School</i>
<i>Kathryn Wills</i>	<i>Binghamton High School</i>
<i>Bryan Ziegler</i>	<i>Maine-Endwell High School</i>

'Separate yourself from the pack'

While the scholarship undoubtedly changes the lives of recipients, it also helps shape Broome County's future. By recruiting top area high school graduates with leadership skills, the college – and the region – is able to retain top talent who might otherwise leave, said President Drumm.

And while the college does attract students from across the state and even across the globe, its local mission remains exceptionally strong. Nearly two-thirds of the college's nearly 50,000 alumni have remained in the area, becoming professionals and leaders in all manner of fields, from business to politics. Their ranks include five of the seven Broome County executives, he noted.

Among those success graduates is former PHS recipient Nathan Dean, who graduated from SUNY Broome last May with a degree in Communications and Media Arts. A graduate of Newark Valley High School in 2012, Dean has found work in his field at Owego-based radio station WEBO. He began as a news reporter and has since been promoted to news director, he told students.

“I didn’t go to Harvard. I didn’t go to Yale. But here I am, working in my field,” he told students. “I’m loving what I’m doing each and every day.”

He advised students to make the most of their time at SUNY Broome: join clubs and organization, become tutors, become acquainted with the college’s many services and staff members. Forge connections and network with each other as fellow high achievers.

“Always look for ways to separate yourself from the pack,” he advised.

A commitment to community

The scholarship began in the fall of 2007, funded initially by the Conrad and Virginia Klee Foundation and an anonymous donor, and developed by former SUNY Broome President Lawrence Spraggs and former BCC Foundation executive director Judy Siggins.

While Conrad Klee passed away in 1962, he would certainly have approved of scholarships. An insurance man, he and his wife Virginia never had children of their own. But both believed strongly in higher education, and privately paid for the education of friends and family members, said Judith Peckham, executive director of the Klee Foundation.

The Presidential Honors Scholarships were created to give recognition to the region’s high achievers, and not just students in need, Peckham noted.

“We need you to help build that healthy community,” she told students.

Donors also received recognition and praise during the event, and had a chance to offer their congratulations in turn. The community is proud of the students, who are all future leaders, said Jeff Lake, the regional president of NBT Bank, of the scholarship’s donors.

Start-up funding and on-going support for the Presidential Honors Scholarship Program is provided by the Conrad and Virginia Klee Foundation and other donors to the BCC Foundation; Estate of Emil Calice, Dr. G. Clifford & Florence B. Decker Foundation, Delta Engineers, William H. Lane, Inc., Lockheed Martin (MS2), M&T Bank, Matco Electric Corporation, Mirabito Holdings, Inc., NBT Bank and NBT-Mang Insurance have also made leadership level commitments to provide full-tuition scholarship support to PHS students. Other supporters include Chemung Canal Trust Company, Community Bank, N.A., and LeChase Construction Services.

The reception was a proud moment for Stella Safari's father and sister, who watched her receive the certificate from Wilson and Drumm.

"She has been so great in high school all along," said her father, Richard Safari. "It is gratifying to see her earn this scholarship."

If you are a Broome or Tioga County high school senior interested in applying for the next round of Presidential Honors Scholarships or for more information on the program, please contact SUNY Broome's Admissions Office at (607) 778-5001 or the BCC Foundation at (607) 778-5047.

**The 2015 Presidential Honors
Scholarship reception**

© 2022 · SUNY Broome

The Focus: SUNY Broome's Faculty & Staff Newsletter