

May 2020

Kalamazoo RESA

Outstanding Senior Awards



Be the Change you Wish to See in the World

Kalamazoo RESA

Outstanding Senior Awards

Congratulations, Outstanding Seniors! The Kalamazoo RESA Foundation and the Education for Employment (EFE) Council normally host a breakfast event to honor EFE/EFA outstanding seniors for their academic achievements and provide selected students with scholarships. This year due to Governor Whitmer's Executive Order to stay at home because of the COVID-19 virus, Kalamazoo RESA has had to cancel the Kalamazoo RESA Outstanding Senior Awards Breakfast.

Despite the cancellation, Kalamazoo RESA Foundation, EFE Council and teaching staff are still honoring these outstanding students for their efforts in their selected programs. Education for Employment (EFE) and Education for the Arts (EFA) consist of approximately 2,500 students in over 30 programs. We are providing our Seniors with this Outstanding Senior Awards booklet and sharing the award recognition through several media outlets.

The Kalamazoo RESA Outstanding Senior Awards is a collaborative effort between many partners: public and non-public school districts, Kalamazoo RESA, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Western Michigan University and over 400 businesses.

Education for Employment has been nationally recognized as one of five exemplary career preparation programs and has been selected by the State of Michigan for an Excellence in Practice award.

Education for the Arts' comprehensive, experiential K-12 programming has been recognized with the Distinguished Service Award from the Michigan Art Education Association and the Governor's Award for Arts in Education.

Congratulations again on your outstanding achievements in your EFE and EFA program and best wishes to you on your future endeavors.

Debra J. Miller
Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Programs
Kalamazoo RESA

Kalamazoo RESA Outstanding Seniors Programs Offered

Outstanding Seniors represent participation in any of the following Education for Employment/Career and Technical Education courses and/or Education for the Arts courses.

AGRICULTURE, FOOD & NATURAL RESOURCES

- ❖ Animal Technology
- ❖ Conservation Biology
- ❖ Veterinary Science

ARCHITECTURE & CONSTRUCTION

- ❖ Construction Trades
- ❖ Electrical Technology
- ❖ Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning

ARTS, A/V TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATIONS

- ❖ Art & Design Career Skills
- ❖ Media Production

BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION

- ❖ Business, Management & Administration

EDUCATION & TRAINING

- ❖ Teacher Academy

FINANCE

- ❖ Accounting
- ❖ Banking & Finance

HEALTH SCIENCE

- ❖ Certified Nursing Assistant
- ❖ Dental Assisting
- ❖ Emergency Medical Technology
- ❖ Fundamentals of Health Science
- ❖ Health Science
- ❖ Professional Health Science

HOSPITALITY & TOURISM

- ❖ Culinary Arts

HUMAN SERVICES

- ❖ Cosmetology & Barbering

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- ❖ Computer Science
- ❖ Information Technology

LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY, CORRECTIONS & SECURITY

- ❖ Law Enforcement

MANUFACTURING

- ❖ Computerized Manufacturing
- ❖ Electronics & Robotics
- ❖ Engineering in Wood Technology
- ❖ Mechatronics
- ❖ Welding

MARKETING

- ❖ Marketing
- ❖ Entrepreneurship

TRANSPORTATION, DISTRIBUTION & LOGISTICS

- ❖ Automotive Technology
- ❖ Aviation Technology

EDUCATION FOR THE ARTS COURSES

- ❖ 3D Game Design
- ❖ Dance
- ❖ Digital Arts
- ❖ Film & Video Arts
- ❖ Media Arts
- ❖ Musical Theatre
- ❖ Theatre
- ❖ Visual Arts



Outstanding Senior Award Donors

Scholarship & World of Work Donors

Alpha Chapter, MI-Alpha Delta Kappa

Burdick-Thorne Foundation

Dave Campbell

Amy Caranci Designs

CSM Group

Global Clinical Connections

Kalamazoo AMBUCS

Kalamazoo County Association of Retired School Personnel

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Kalamazoo Valley Habitat for Humanity

Sue Lignell

Lester Minor & Sue Garvey

OnStaff USA, Portage

Don & Ann Parfet

Parker Hannifin/Parker Pneumatics Corporation

Portage Education Foundation: Scott-Hammond Memorial

Tom Topham

West Main Shopping Center

West Michigan Education Research & Development Foundation

Western Michigan University

Wightman

World of Work

Outstanding Senior Award Donors

Scholarship & World of Work Donors (continued)

Kalamazoo RESA Foundation:

Bronson Methodist Hospital & Gayl F. Werme Memorial
Burdick-Thorne Foundation
Tom & Marsha Conor
Irv & Alberta Cumming
Eaton Corporation
Fabri-Kal Foundation
Walter B. Forbes Aviation
Barbara Hawthorne
Home Builders Association of Western Michigan
Hospitality Award
Irving S. Gilmore Foundation
Kalamazoo RESA Board of Education
Kalamazoo Rotary - DQ Hunter Memorial
W. Jack & Dr. Nanette Keiser
Miller-Davis Company
Dr. W. Craig & Diane Misner
Gary Rice Memorial
Tele-City Information Highway
Robert C. Thompson Memorial
Dr. Robert & Ruth VanderRoest
Jeanne Webster Memorial
Larry & Rose Wile
Paul & Betts Wollam/Stephanie Jo Harris Memorial
Sergeant Lisa Zuk Memorial
Stairway to a Career

*Special thanks to all the
Outstanding Senior Donors!*

Outstanding Seniors

In celebrating Kalamazoo RESA's outstanding seniors, the following students from public and non-public schools were selected for recognition.

All outstanding seniors are nominated by their EFE/EFA teachers. The teachers have the opportunity to nominate one exceptional senior from each of their programs, with a maximum of three students from each program per school.

A scholarship committee selects students from among the nominees to receive a scholarship based on each student's academic achievements, community involvement, extracurricular activities and future goals. Scholarships are generously sponsored by local foundations, businesses, and the community.

Congratulations Seniors . . .

You have truly done an outstanding job!

- ❖ Number of Scholarships: 76
- ❖ Number of Donors: 46
- ❖ Total Amount of Scholarships: \$ 67,400

We proudly salute these exceptional students for their accomplishments.

Alexia Aguilar

Parchment High School

Parents

Moises Aguilar & Martha Ramos-Orona

Career

Child Development/Child Life Specialist

College

Western Michigan University

EFE Program

Teacher Academy

Instructor

Beckett Lockerbie

Instructor Comments:

Alexia is hardworking and dedicated. She has a wonderful rapport with her second-grade students and is willing to help them in any way. Alexia puts in countless hours at her internship, which demonstrates her commitment. Alexia has a successful future ahead.

Scholarship - \$ 2,000

\$ 2,000 - Western Michigan University: College of Education



Myles Baker

Loy Norrix High School

Parents

Dave Baker & Heidi Graham

Career

Aerospace Engineering

College

Western Michigan University

EFE Program

Electronics & Robotics

Instructor

Ken Briggs

Instructor Comments:

Myles is an excellent student who enjoys the challenges of building and troubleshooting. I can always count on Myles to diagnose and fix problems, as well as to teach others. He has a passion for aerospace engineering and aircraft design and is well on his way to a bright future.

Scholarship - \$ 500

\$ 500 - CSM Group



Sophia Bare

Portage Northern High School

Parents

Troy Woodard & Melissa Bare

Career

Psychology

College

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

EFE Program

Accounting & Finance

Instructor

Amy Meyer

Instructor Comments:

Sophia is super hardworking and perseveres through any challenge she faces, whether in school or life! She is highly motivated. This intrinsic motivation will serve her well in her future college and career goals. I can't wait to see what Sophia's future holds!

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Kalamazoo Valley Community College



Alyssa Barga

Vicksburg High School

Parents

Jamie & Kris Barga

Career

Animals

College

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

EFE Program

Work-based Learning

Instructor

Scott Wills

Instructor Comments:

Aly has a passion for the swine industry. She has applied her knowledge and hardworking attitude. Aside from being a great scholar of the subject, Aly is always willing to go the extra mile to help classmates and teachers. I know she will apply her self-motivated learning to life and find success.

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Kalamazoo Valley Community College



Asia Barnum

Parchment High School

Parents

Karnell & Deondra Barnum

Career

Business

College

N/A

EFE Program

Cosmetology



Instructor

Maria Salinas

Instructor Comments:

Asia has set herself at a pace in this program to where she is proficient and excels in all her styling skills. As a future stylist, Asia can always be counted on to bring her pleasant personality and smile.

World of Work Award - \$ 500

\$ 500 - World of Work Award: Amy Caranci Designs

Matthew Bau

Kalamazoo Central High School

Parents

Michael & Andrea Bau

Career

Entrepreneurship

College

Western Michigan University or Adrian College

EFE Program

Business Management & Administration



Instructor

Michelle Claybaugh

Instructor Comments:

Matthew is an exceptional student. He has completed every business course offered at Kalamazoo Central. He is dedicated and goal-driven. It has been a joy to watch Matt grow, become confident and successful. I'm very proud of you, Matt!

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Burdick-Thorne Foundation

Jack Beffel

Portage Northern High School

Parents

John & Joan Beffel

Career

Mechanical Engineering

College

Grand Valley State University

EFE Program

Marketing/Entrepreneurship



Instructor

Jeanine Patterson

Instructor Comments:

Jack is one of the most responsible and reliable students I have known. He always makes smart decisions, is humble, polite and nice to everyone. I can always count on him for anything.

Scholarship - \$ 500

\$ 500 - Kalamazoo RESA Foundation: Dr. Robert and Ruth VanderRoest

Jack Blesch

Gull Lake High School

Parents

Richard & Susan Blesch

Career

Marketing

College

University of St. Thomas

EFE Program

Marketing



Instructor

BreeAnn Tarnas

Instructor Comments:

Jack is an exceptional student in Marketing and goes above and beyond, putting his best effort into what he produces. Great work, Jack!

Scholarship - \$ 500

\$ 500 - West Main Shopping Center and Education for Employment

Maddie Blubaugh

Portage Northern High School

Parents

Thad & Donya Blubaugh

Career

Secondary Education

College

Western Michigan University

EFE Program

Accounting

Instructor

Amy Meyer

Instructor Comments:

Having Madison for three years of Accounting has been a blessing! She was born driven and strives to succeed in everything she does! Madison is hardworking, communicative and super helpful. She pays attention to detail and will be a huge success as a future educator!

Scholarship - \$ 680

\$ 680 - Kalamazoo RESA Foundation: Paul & Betts Wollam/Stephanie Jo Harris



Morgan Boyd

Kalamazoo Central High School

Parents

Daniel & Angela Boyd

Career

Aviation Technical Operations

College

Western Michigan University

EFE Program

Aviation Technology II

Instructor

Al Hollaway

Instructor Comments:

Morgan is academically outstanding. She has never wavered in her focus on aviation as a career field. She is a leader in her peer group and never fails to be helpful.

Scholarship - \$ 1,013

\$ 1,013 - Kalamazoo RESA Foundation: Walter B. Forbes Aviation



Finn Brent

Loy Norrix High School

Parents

Patrick & Heather Brent

Career

Biology/Environmental Studies

College

Kalamazoo College

EFE Program

Conservation Biology



Instructor

Fahimeh Baziari

Instructor Comments:

I've enjoyed watching Finn's commitment and kindness. I have admired his dedication to constant growth and challenge. Finn is outstanding because he is a strong and thoughtful student who has shown himself willing to work hard to reach his goals.

Scholarship - \$ 1,500

\$ 1,500 - Kalamazoo Area Retired School Personnel

Isabella Brown

Parchment High School

Parents

Derby Russell & Sandra Brown

Career

Oral Health Science

College

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

EFE Program

Dental Assisting



Instructor

Katie Hatfield

Instructor Comments:

Izzy is such a joy to have in class. She is one of the most polite and kindest students I have ever taught. She is helpful to her fellow classmates and always comes early eager to learn. Her attitude and ambition will help her achieve her future goals!

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Madison Bullis

Vicksburg High School

Parents

Timothy & Meghan Bullis

Career

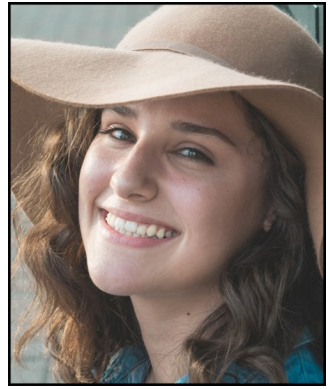
Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement

College

Adrian College

EFE Program

Law Enforcement



Instructor

Brian Brusach

Instructor Comments:

Madison is a resilient student who can overcome any challenge she faces. She is an excellent representation of the Law Enforcement program with her big smile and positive attitude.

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Kalamazoo RESA Foundation: Sergeant Lisa Zuk Memorial

Anakin Caffrey

Parchment High School

Parents

Robert & Shannon Caffrey

Career

Human Resource Management

College

Ball State or Western Michigan University

EFE Program

Marketing



Instructor

Jay Olweean

Instructor Comments:

Anakin takes a leadership role in running the school store and is willing to take on different responsibilities.

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Burdick-Thorne Foundation

Makayla Carpenter

Loy Norrix High School

Parents

Shane & Neva Carpenter

Career

Business Management for Construction

College

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

EFE Program

Construction Trades



Instructor

Rob Ling

Instructor Comments:

Makayla is a great student with a passion to learn the industry. She is a natural leader and is always eager to help others.

Scholarship - \$ 1,150

\$ 1,150 - Kalamazoo RESA Foundation:
Homebuilders Association of Western Michigan

Donald Cochran III

Schoolcraft High School

Parents

Don & Shelly Cochran

Career

Agriculture

College

N/A

EFE Program

Business Management & Administration



Instructor

Lori Pelton

Instructor Comments:

Donnie is an integral part of the SHS tech team. He helps students and staff daily on school technology issues. Donnie works hard and is very capable of running our school's business. He is very dependable and willing to go above and beyond what is expected!

World of Work Award - \$ 500

\$ 500 - World of Work Award: Education for Employment

Victoria Cottrell

Portage Central High School

Parents

Jim & Cathy Cottrell

Career

Business Administration

College

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

EFE Program

Work-based Learning

Instructor

Irene Mayfield

Instructor Comments:

Victoria is a self-starter who always has a positive attitude. She has worked at SMG Health since July and demonstrates professionalism and maturity beyond her years. Her supervisor thinks she is doing a 'great job' and notes that Victoria 'takes on new tasks and asks great questions.'

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Kalamazoo Valley Community College



Miles Crawford

Vicksburg High School

Parents

Mark & Linda Crawford

Career

Design

College

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

EFE Program

Art & Design Career Skills

Instructor

Kellen Deau

Instructor Comments:

Miles is an integral part of our program! He is flexible and willing to experiment to better his own work, the work of others and our program. Miles' artistic talent and work ethic are strong. Milo, you are invaluable and irreplaceable! I am proud of you!

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Kalamazoo Valley Community College



Levi Crooks

Portage Northern High School

Parents

Wil & Pam Crooks

Career

Hydrology

College

Western Michigan University

EFE Program

Marketing

Instructor

Jeanine Patterson

Instructor Comments:

Levi is an amazing student and role model. He is kind, smart, driven and a motivator. His smile can light up a classroom and he is always willing to lend a hand.

Scholarship - \$ 500

\$ 500 - Sue Lignell



Nihveah Cruz

Kalamazoo Central High School

Parents

Montrell Taylor & Gretta Wilkins

Career

Dance Studio Owner/Cardiologist

College

Undecided

EFA Program

Intermediate Dance

Instructor

Francesca Pileci

Instructor Comments:

Nihveah has shown outstanding artistic merit, leadership and academic achievement in EFA Dance. She was inducted into the National Honor Society for Dance Arts this year. She will graduate with honors in acknowledgement of her achievements in EFA Dance.

Scholarship - \$ 500

\$ 500 - Kalamazoo RESA Foundation:

Irving S. Gilmore Foundation in Memory of Gayl F. Werme



Joshua DeVries

Portage Northern High School

Parents

Scott & Jodi DeVries

Career

Civil Engineering

College

Michigan State University

EFE Program

Engineering in Wood Technology



Instructor

Matthew Kamm

Instructor Comments:

Not only a valued asset in reaching even the highest of shelves, but Josh is also a valued leader and instructor within our woodshop program. At all times, he can be seen at the sides of his peers, passing on his operational knowledge to whomever is around and will listen.

Scholarship - \$ 750

\$ 750 - Kalamazoo RESA Foundation: Miller-Davis

Nicholas Doane

Kalamazoo Central High School

Parents

Jonathan & Christy Doane

Career

Political Science

College

Aquinas College

EFE Program

Business Management & Administration



Instructor

Michelle Claybaugh

Instructor Comments:

Nicholas has been such a fun student. He is eager and willing to complete any task with enthusiasm. Nicholas is genuine and helps other students, as well as the teacher. Nick, it has been so much fun watching you grow and finding your passion!

Scholarship - \$ 550

\$ 550 - Kalamazoo RESA Foundation: Stairway to a Career and Education for Employment

Seth Douglas

Kalamazoo Central High School

Parents

Stephen Douglas & Felicia Mims

Career

Barbering

College

N/A

EFE Program

Cosmetology/Barbering



Instructor

Jacqueline Rush

Instructor Comments:

Seth is a young man with a promising future. He is an outstanding barber student with excellent skills and an amazing personality. His kindness and professionalism are a few of his attributes that stand out. He is dedicated to the field of barbering and his clients are satisfied.

World of Work Award - \$ 500

\$ 500 - World of Work Award: Education for Employment

Melissa Dumas

Loy Norrix High School

Parents

John & Angel Dumas

Career

Technology

College

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

EFE Program

Accounting & Finance



Instructor

Beth Soisson

Instructor Comments:

Melissa Dumas is a focused individual. She approaches her work with enthusiasm and confidence. She is a capable, willing participant within her accounting course. Her love of learning is a wonderful asset.

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Emily Edlefson

Loy Norrix High School

Parents

Kevin & Amy Edlefson

Career

The Arts

College

Hope College

EFE Program

Art & Design Career Skills



Instructor

Kellen Deau

Instructor Comments:

Emily's kind spirit has been a wonderful addition. She is mature, insightful and eager to learn. Her artwork is consistently high quality and her effort is exceptional. Emily is a leader and has outstanding professionalism. She will succeed wherever she goes!

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Burdick-Thorne Foundation

Quincy Ellis

Loy Norrix High School

Parents

Sidney & Renita Ellis

Career

Theatre

College

Eastern Michigan University

EFE Program

Business Management & Administration



Instructor

Atiba Ward

Instructor Comments:

Quincy has done a great job exploring the business world. He has enhanced his skills and provides leadership through various projects. He is truly an emerging leader and a promising young scholar.

Scholarship - \$ 500

\$ 500 - Global Clinical Connections, Dave Campbell and Education for Employment

Peyton Fisher

Schoolcraft High School

Parents

John & Lisa Fisher

Career

Engineering

College

Grand Valley State University

EFE Program

Accounting



Instructor

Lori Pelton

Instructor Comments:

Peyton is the student who sets high goals for himself and works hard to achieve them. Peyton is well-rounded, dependable, positive, kind and has a great work ethic. Peyton will be an asset to any employer that is lucky enough to get him.

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Burdick-Thorne Foundation

Nolan Fraaza

Gull Lake High School

Parents

Kurtis & Nicole Fraaza

Career

Exercise Science

College

Elmhurst College

EFE Program

Professional Health Science



Instructor

Kathleen Nyberg

Instructor Comments:

Nolan is an Outstanding Senior because of his positive attitude and ability to always be available to help. Nolan always gives his best effort and has all the characteristics to be a successful future health care provider.

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Kalamazoo AMBUCS

Jessica Garcia-Navarro

Portage Central High School

Parents

Eduardo Garcia-Plascencia &
Diana Navarro-Marines

Career

Human Resource Management

College

Western Michigan University

EFE Program

Accounting & Finance

Instructor

Sarah Lewis

Instructor Comments:

Jessica is a kind, responsible and motivated senior. As one of my advanced students, I have watched her grow into a patient mentor to her peers. Her positive attitude and growth mindset have had a great effect on our school environment.

Scholarship - \$ 500

\$ 500 - Kalamazoo RESA Foundation: Dr. W. Craig and Diane Misner



Gurvick Ghai

Gull Lake High School

Parents

Mandip & Rajwinder Ghai

Career

Electrical Engineering

College

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

EFE Program

Marketing

Instructor

BreAnn Tarnas

Instructor Comments:

Vick is an intelligent and kind student. He is an incredible asset with his ability to anticipate what needs to be done. He has a deeper understanding of business operations than most students. I anticipate Vick will do incredible things in his future.

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Kalamazoo Valley Community College



Griffin Gheen

Kalamazoo Central High School

Parents

Christian & Grace Gheen

Career

Business

College

Kalamazoo College

EFE Program

Marketing

Instructor

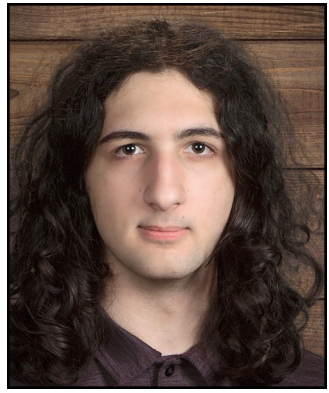
Robert Roy

Instructor Comments:

Griffin is a super project-oriented leader, is great at time management and has an eye for detail. He leads by example and is always doing something. He is naturally soft-spoken and reserved. It has been a pleasure watching him grow in the leadership role.

Scholarship - \$ 750

\$ 750 - Kalamazoo RESA Foundation: Kalamazoo RESA Board of Education



Meegan Heerlyn

Vicksburg High School

Parents

Robert & Pamela Heerlyn

Career

Engineering

College

Western Michigan University

EFE Program

Accounting & Mechatronics

Instructor

Justin McDonald & Greg Mills

Instructor Comments:

Meegan is an outstanding student who is committed to excellence. She has a great work ethic and continually goes above and beyond. She pays great attention to detail, which helps her be so successful in both Accounting and Mechatronics.

Scholarship - \$ 500

\$ 500 - Kalamazoo RESA Foundation: Irv and Alberta Cumming



Lucas Henry

Loy Norrix High School

Parents

Matt & Silvia Henry

Career

Cybersecurity

College

Grand Valley State University

EFE Program

Computer Science - Cybersecurity



Instructor

Rostam Ahmad Daud

Instructor Comments:

Lucas has been an asset these past two years. He is always willing to help fellow students with technical issues from home desktop problems to replacing iPhone batteries. He also helps when others get stuck in lab work--offering just enough information to get them rolling again.

Scholarship - \$ 500

\$ 500 - Don & Ann Parfet and Education for Employment

Brie Herriman

Portage Northern High School

Parents

Scott & Chelsea Herriman

Career

Culinary Arts

College

N/A

EFE Program

Culinary Arts



Instructor

Kharen Shelton

Instructor Comments:

Gabrielle is a motivated, talented and mature student, who will not only be a great cook but will be capable of applying her skills to excel in any industry or profession. She is mature, works well with others and is a joy to have in class.

World of Work Award - \$ 500

\$ 500 - World of Work Award: Education for Employment

John Hirzel

Gull Lake High School

Parents

Nic & Kristine Hirzel

Career

Business

College

Michigan State University

EFE Program

Marketing



Instructor

BreAnn Tarnas

Instructor Comments:

Jack is a great leader in Marketing! He always goes above what is expected of him and is a joy to have in class. Good Job, Jack!

Scholarship - \$ 500

\$ 500 - Sue Lignell

Malissa Howe

Gull Lake High School

Parents

Michael & Marjorie Howe

Career

Applied Food Studies

College

Culinary Institute of America

EFE Program

Culinary Arts



Instructor

Kharen Shelton

Instructor Comments:

Not only is Malissa a great cook with a bright future, but she is also a generous and disciplined leader, fair team player and hardworking student who knows how to delegate and accomplish goals.

Scholarship - \$ 350

\$ 350 - Kalamazoo RESA Foundation: Hospitality and Education for Employment

Tanner Jacobs

Kalamazoo Central High School

Parents

John & Laurie Jacobs

Career

Accounting

College

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

EFE Program

Accounting

Instructor

Michelle Claybaugh

Instructor Comments:

Tanner Jacobs is a teacher's dream student. He is kind and polite. He works hard and is enthused to learn. Tanner demonstrates leadership, teamwork and positivity. I have really enjoyed having Tanner from Computer Applications to Accounting and Business Finance.

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Kalamazoo Valley Community College



Skylar Johns

Vicksburg High School

Parents

Doug Johns & Tiffany Johns-McDonald

Career

Computer Hardware Engineering

College

Western Michigan University

EFE Program

Computerized Manufacturing

Instructor

Greg Mills

Instructor Comments:

Skylar is finishing an excellent high school record by taking both Computerized Manufacturing and Mechatronics engineering. At the WMU 2019 Innovation Day competition, he led a team to a third-place victory. He is highly motivated and will be a successful engineer someday.

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Parker Hannifin/Parker Pneumatics Corporation



Juchan Kim

Vicksburg High School

Parents

Victor & Grace Kim

Career

Pre-Med

College

Virginia Community College

EFE Program

Health Science

Instructor

Laura Kuzmick

Instructor Comments:

Juchan is a very dedicated and empathetic student. He has spent many hours practicing for HOSA and is always willing to help others. He will make a very caring and passionate healthcare provider.

Scholarship - \$ 500

\$ 500 - Kalamazoo RESA Foundation:
Bronson Methodist Hospital and Gayl F. Werme Memorial



Megan Kiss

Gull Lake High School

Parents

Corby & Mindy Kiss

Career

Finance

College

Grand Canyon University

EFE Program

Accounting

Instructor

Andrea Hudson

Instructor Comments:

Megan is a self-starter who is always willing to help others. She is one I can rely on to relate material to real-world examples and help accounting come to life for her classmates. Her future in finance will have a great impact on the next generation.

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Alpha Chapter, MI-Alpha Delta Kappa



Kimberly Kovacik

Portage Central High School

Parents

Brian & Cindy Kovacik

Career

Biology

College

Western Michigan University

EFE Program

Health Sciences

Instructor

Laura Kuzmick

Instructor Comments:

Kim is a highly intelligent and very kind individual. She has amazing leadership skills that naturally shine while working with her peers. Kim will become a very intelligent and empathetic nurse.

Scholarship - \$ 500

\$ 500 - Wightman



Ella Ledbetter-Newton

Loy Norrix High School

Parents

Charles Ledbetter & Erin Newton

Career

Criminal Justice & Psychology

College

Adrian College

EFE Program

Law Enforcement

Instructor

Brian Brusach

Instructor Comments:

Ella is a bright social asset to our program. She has a 4.0 GPA with plans to attend Adrian College studying Criminal Justice and Psychology. She has had the lead role in her school plays and participates with her school forensics team.

Scholarship - \$ 1,500

\$ 1,500 - Kalamazoo Area Retired School Personnel



Marta Mejia Sanchez

Loy Norrix High School

Parents

Celso Mejia & Elba Sanchez

Career

Business

College

Western Michigan University

EFE Program

Business Management & Administration



Instructor

Atiba Ward

Instructor Comments:

Marta has successfully taken many courses offered at Loy Norrix. She has shown a positive attitude and zeal for learning in our program. She has displayed hard work and endurance as well. This attribute will help her to be successful in future endeavors.

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Sue Lignell

Mitchell Milks

Portage Northern High School

Parents

Matthew & Jodi Milks

Career

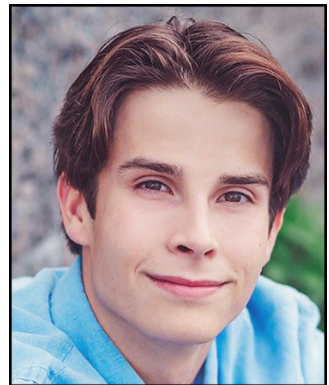
Finance

College

Michigan State University

EFE Program

Marketing



Instructor

Jeanine Patterson

Instructor Comments:

Mitchell has qualities that I hope for in all my students. He is the school store manager and has worked many extra hours. He goes above and beyond to write deposits, order inventory and work with sales reps without being asked. He has qualified for State DECA the last three years.

Scholarship - \$ 500

\$ 500 - Les Minor & Sue Garvey and Education for Employment

Michael Modugno

Loy Norrix High School

Parents

Mike & Catherine Modugno

Career

Film & Video

College

Grand Valley State University

EFA Program

Advanced Multi-Media Arts



Instructor

Tom Ludwig

Instructor Comments:

Michael is very creative in writing, planning and execution of his videos. He is a detail-oriented artist at all levels of his work, and it shows in the quality of what he produces. Michael is an exceptionally talented student who genuinely enjoys working on his art.

Scholarship - \$ 542

\$ 542 - Kalamazoo RESA Foundation: Barbara Hawthorne Memorial

Belen Moreno-Aguilar

Kalamazoo Central High School

Parents

Juan Moreno & Alma Aguilar

Career

Biomedical Science

College

Western Michigan University

EFE Program

Health Science



Instructor

Kathleen Nyberg

Instructor Comments:

Belen has a kind and caring heart. She goes above and beyond to help others in class. She is always positive, with a smile on her face every day. Belen will be an asset to the healthcare industry.

Scholarship - \$ 1,500

\$ 1,500 - Kalamazoo Area Retired School Personnel

Sydney Osinski

Portage Central High School

Parents

Mark & Vicki Osinski

Career

Business

College

Western Michigan University

EFE Program

Accounting & Finance

Instructor

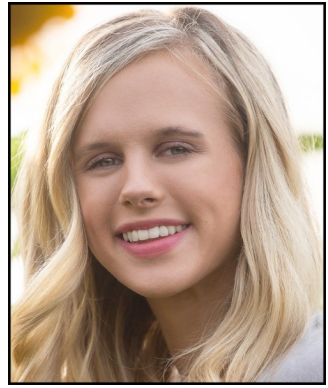
Sarah Lewis

Instructor Comments:

Sydney demonstrates a strong work ethic and is an organized, natural leader in our classroom. She completes each task with a commitment to mastery and regularly seeks out feedback. Students and faculty rely on her as a team member and friend.

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Kalamazoo RESA Foundation: Larry & Rose Wile



Seth Paige

Portage Northern High School

Parents

Brett & Danielle Paige

Career

Industrial Engineering

College

Western Michigan University

EFE Program

Engineering in Wood Technology

Instructor

Matthew Kamm

Instructor Comments:

One of our most valued equipment managers, Seth has a vast knowledge of equipment processes and maintenance within in the shop. He is one of our most active leaders, even impacting students from across multiple class periods.

Scholarship - \$ 1,500

\$ 1,500 - Kalamazoo Area Retired School Personnel



Brianna Petersen

Vicksburg High School

Parents

Dennis & Karen Petersen

Career

Ecology, Evolution and Biodiversity

College

University of Michigan

EFE Program

Veterinary Science



Instructor

Noreen Heikes

Instructor Comments:

Brianna is focused, self-directed and responsible. She is a quiet leader in this highly competitive class and takes every opportunity to gain knowledge and experience. She is forging an exceptional future for herself!

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - West Michigan Education Research & Development Foundation

Jaylin Pigeon

Gull Lake High School

Parents

K.C. Pigeon & Jenny Kim

Career

Computer Programming

College

Michigan Technological University

EFE Program

Computer Science - Cybersecurity



Instructor

Brad Lange

Instructor Comments:

Jaylin's enthusiasm for learning anything computer science is evident in his daily work ethic. He has taken every available computer science course through EFE and wishes he would be around for more learning next year.

Scholarship - \$ 500

\$ 500 - Kalamazoo RESA Foundation: Gary Rice Memorial and Tele-City Information Highway

Hunter Pitsch

Portage Northern High School

Parents

Steve & Bonnie Pitsch

Career

Communications

College

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

EFE Program

Media Production



Instructor

Mark Monk

Instructor Comments:

Hunter is one of the best students I have had in over 25 years of teaching. He is observant, eager, willing to ask questions and help others in class. Words can only scratch at his worthiness for this scholarship. I have had many seniors; Hunter is one of few who are deserving of this recognition.

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Justin Reed

Vicksburg High School

Parents

Keith & Stephanie Reed

Career

Computer Science

College

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

EFE Program

Computer Science



Instructor

Justin McDonald

Instructor Comments:

Justin is a hardworking student who is committed to excellence in all he does. He goes above and beyond the minimum requirements and is continually looking to learn and progress.

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Samantha Reed

Climax-Scotts High School

Parents

Brent & Theresa Reed

Career

Nursing

College

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

EFE Program

Marketing



Instructor

Dielle Madison

Instructor Comments:

Samantha is an outstanding student whose leadership qualities became apparent within the first few minutes of interacting with her. She is a hard worker who never shies from a challenge and is always ready to help both her classmates and teachers.

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Kimberly Roberts

Loy Norrix High School

Parents

Mark & Verna Roberts

Career

Accounting

College

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

EFE Program

Accounting



Instructor

Beth Soisson

Instructor Comments:

Kimberly is a goal-oriented, polite individual. Her self-confidence has blossomed while in Accounting. She is punctual, positive and has an infectious smile. Her work ethic and willingness to tackle a challenge will be an asset in her future endeavors.

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Dawnara Rollins

Vicksburg High School

Parents

Michael & Donietta Hamilton

Career

Nursing

College

Western Michigan University

EFE Program

Health Science



Instructor

Kathleen Nyberg

Instructor Comments:

Dawnara is the type of student every teacher loves to have. She is kind, empathetic and has a positive attitude and a smile on her face every day. She includes everyone when working in groups or in the lab. I have no doubt that she will be very successful.

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Kalamazoo RESA Foundation: W. Jack & Dr. Nanette Keiser

Cole Romig

Vicksburg High School

Parents

Aaron & Deborah Romig

Career

Education

College

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

EFE Program

Marketing



Instructor

Justin McDonald

Instructor Comments:

Cole is a very hardworking student, who is committed to excellence and is willing to go above and beyond the minimum requirements. He has a positive attitude that is contagious to anyone around him.

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Cormac Roth

Kalamazoo Central High School

Parents

James & Megan Roth

Career

Game Design and Music

College

University of Denver

EFE Program

Electronics & Robotics



Instructor

Ken Briggs

Instructor Comments:

Cormac excels academically and has exceptional problem-solving and programming skills. His expertise and willingness to help others is a tremendous asset. You might find yourself playing a video game developed by Cormac in the future.

Scholarship - \$ 1,250

\$ 1,250 - Kalamazoo RESA Foundation: Burdick-Thorne Foundation

MacKenzie Ruthven

Portage Central High School

Parents

Dustin & Lisa Ruthven

Career

Business

College

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

EFE Program

Marketing



Instructor

Greg Chambers

Instructor Comments:

Mackenzie is an outstanding business student. She always goes above and beyond the expectations in class. She is, and will continue to be, very successful.

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Matthew Ryan

Portage Community High School

Parents

Ronald & Lysanne Ryan

Career

Zoology

College

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

EFE Program

Conservation Biology



Instructor

Fahimeh Baziari

Instructor Comments:

It has been a pleasure getting to know Matt this year. He has naturally become a leader in class and his enthusiasm to learn new information has been infectious to his peers. Matt always comes to class with a great attitude and outlook for the day!

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Mikayla Sands

Vicksburg High School

Parents

Michael & Tamara Sands

Career

Secondary English Education

College

Saginaw Valley State University

EFE Program

Teacher Academy



Instructor

April Rocco

Instructor Comments:

Mikayla has shown an exceptional ability to meet the academic and social needs of the students with whom she works. Mikayla's positive attitude and determined work ethic make her an asset to the field of education.

Scholarship - \$ 1,500

\$ 1,500 - Kalamazoo Area Retired School Personnel

Matthew Seeburger

Portage Central High School

Parents

John & Heather Seeburger

Career

Computer Science

College

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

EFE Program

Information Technology



Instructor

Rostam Ahmad Daud

Instructor Comments:

Matthew is the first to volunteer for projects, program promotions or whenever someone needs a little help with a lab. He has been able to take his work-based learning experience and inform the class how relevant the coursework truly is to the real world.

Scholarship - \$ 500

\$ 500 - Portage Education Foundation: Scott Hammond Memorial

Andre Smith

Gull Lake High School

Parents

Christopher Smith & Maribel Laforge

Career

Artificial Intelligence

College

Davenport University

EFE Program

Computer Science



Instructor

Brad Lange

Instructor Comments:

Andre is a problem solver extraordinaire. He develops new software applications to help our lives as developers be more exciting and efficient. Encountering learning curves with such new software is no problem for Andre. He steps up with research and practice to get it to work.

Scholarship - \$ 500

\$ 500 - Education for Employment

Kamayia Smith

Loy Norrix High School

Parents

Darran & Kara Smith

Career

Elementary Education

College

Eastern Michigan University

EFE Program

Teacher Academy



Instructor

April Rocco

Instructor Comments:

Kamayia is a returning Loy Norrix High School student to the Teacher Academy program. She has demonstrated outstanding performance in the classroom and at Milwood Middle School as a math intern. Kamayia demonstrates leadership in and out of the classroom.

Scholarship - \$ 1,500

\$ 1,500 - Kalamazoo Area Retired School Personnel

Corey Snow

Gull Lake High School

Parents

Daniel & Kimberly Snow

Career

Electrical Engineering

College

Michigan Technological University

EFE Program

Computer Science



Instructor

Brad Lange

Instructor Comments:

Corey has helped lead and develop many programs. He is the current Vice President of eSports club, moderator of Discord, and co-captain of the Twisted Devils robotics team. He is also involved with piloting our new Independent Certification course while mentoring new students.

Scholarship - \$ 500

\$ 500 - Kalamazoo RESA Foundation: Fabri-Kal Foundation and Education for Employment

Anna Spiecker

Portage Central High School

Parents

John & Adriana Spiecker

Career

Fire Science

College

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

EFE Program

Law Enforcement



Instructor

Brian Brusach

Instructor Comments:

Anna is a natural leader. She presents herself in a professional manner while interacting with both students and adults. She is also a Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety Explorer and plans to attend KVCC with a major in Fire Science.

Scholarship - \$ 1,500

\$ 1,500 - Kalamazoo Area Retired School Personnel

Chase Stenger

Vicksburg High School

Parents

Joseph & Donella Stenger

Career

Industrial Maintenance Repair

College

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

EFE Program

Mechatronics



Instructor

Greg Mills

Instructor Comments:

Chase is outstanding in every aspect of co-op! From his job performance at Pfizer, where he has become a valued and respected member of the Skilled Trades team, to his ability to consistently turn in quality work on time, Chase's skill set and work ethic ensure future success!

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Cole Straka

Vicksburg High School

Parents

Cliff & Corinne Straka

Career

Mechanical Engineering

College

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

EFE Program

Computerized Manufacturing II & Mechatronics

Instructor

Greg Mills

Instructor Comments:

Cole is a third-year student in Computerized Manufacturing and Mechatronics Engineering with a co-op job at a local manufacturer. He is a top student in all classes using CNC machines and CAD designs.

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Kalamazoo Valley Community College



Mikaylen Svoboda

Schoolcraft High School

Parents

Matthew & Noreena Svoboda

Career

Biological Sciences/ Pre-Veterinary

College

Western Michigan University

EFE Program

Veterinary Science

Instructor

Noreen Heikes

Instructor Comments:

Mikaylen has been a focused and driven student during the entire two years in my class. She is organized, responsible and determined. She also has a realistic grasp of requirements for a veterinary career and will certainly be successful in her pursuit.

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Burdick-Thorne Foundation



Abigail VanDyk

Heritage Christian Academy

Parents

Jay & Sara VanDyk

Career

Dairy Management and Agriculture

College

Michigan State University - Institute of Agriculture

EFE Program

Animal Technology

Instructor

Noreen Heikes

Instructor Comments:

Abby has a great deal of livestock experience and is always eager to learn and to help her classmates. She is becoming a more confident leader, as well as being responsible and extremely reliable.

Scholarship - \$ 550

\$ 550 - Kalamazoo RESA Foundation: Robert C. Thompson Memorial



Trynity Wafford

Kalamazoo Central High School

Parents

Steffon & Aliah Wafford

Career

Communications/Entrepreneurship

College

Florida A & M University and
Wayne State University

EFE Program

Marketing

Instructor

Robert Roy

Instructor Comments:

Trynity has been a wonderful addition to our school store. She was a manager during the first trimester and learned a great deal about managing people and processes. She has a positive personality and will be missed.

Scholarship - \$ 500

\$ 500 - Kalamazoo RESA Foundation: Kalamazoo Rotary—DQ Hunter



Morgan Wallace

Galesburg-Augusta High School

Parents

Carl Wallace & Nicole Lindeman

Career

Undecided

College

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

EFE Program

Business Management & Administration



Instructor

Pamela Hawk

Instructor Comments:

Morgan is interested in a career in Art Therapy after high school. Her desire to help people through art is a goal she will be working towards.

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Colby Way

Galesburg-Augusta High School

Parents

Michael & Tracy Way

Career

Graphic Design

College

Michigan State University

EFE Program

Accounting



Instructor

Pamela Hawk

Instructor Comments:

Colby is a hardworking student. He is dedicated to his studies and band and is a leader in both. Colby is a member of the National Honor Society, where he has helped organize blood drives.

Scholarship - \$ 855

\$ 855 - Kalamazoo RESA Foundation: Eaton Corporation and Tom & Marsha Conon

Jacob Wayne

Galesburg-Augusta High School

Parents

David & Tamera Wayne

Career

Business and Programming

College

Undecided

EFE Program

Business Management & Administration

Instructor

Pamela Hawk

Instructor Comments:

I have had the pleasure of working with Jacob for almost four years and have watched him grow in knowledge and confidence. Initially, Jacob was reserved and cautious. Over the last few years, I have watched him gain confidence, offering his expertise and support to fellow classmates.

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - OnStaff USA, Portage



Mikayla Williams

Kalamazoo Central High School

Parents

Joseph Fance & Cheri Kroupensky

Career

Nursing

College

Wayne State University

EFE Program

Fundamentals of Health Science

Instructor

Laura Kuzmick

Instructor Comments:

Mikayla is a very dedicated, respectful and honest person. She also puts forth a lot of effort and makes sure everything is perfect. Mikayla will become a very dependable and passionate nurse.

Scholarship - \$ 500

\$ 500 - Kalamazoo RESA Foundation: Jeanne Webster Memorial



Breyana Wilson

Loy Norrix High School

Parents

Bobby Wilson & Molli Kornak

Career

Education and Business

College

Western Michigan University

EFE Program

Business Management & Administration



Instructor

Beth Soisson

Instructor Comments:

Breyana is a motivated, focused individual capable of pulling enthusiasm from others through her own enthusiastic approach. She brings her leadership skills and aptitude to understand people in everything she does. She has been an excellent addition to our DECA team.

Scholarship - \$ 2,000

\$ 2,000 - Western Michigan University, College of Education

Jordan Woodrum

Kalamazoo Central High School

Parents

Darold Weld & Patricia Woodrum

Career

Veterinary

College

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

EFE Program

Marketing & Veterinary Science



Instructor

Bob Roy and Noreen Heikes

Instructor Comments:

Jordan is an excellent manager in our school store. She has a great work ethic and initiative. She is constantly looking for ways to improve the school store and marketing laboratory. Jordan leads by example and her work ethic, initiative and drive are unparalleled. She is exceptional.

Scholarship - \$ 1,000

\$ 1,000 - Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Thank You, Donors!

The Kalamazoo RESA

Outstanding Senior Awards would not
be possible without the continued support
of the Kalamazoo RESA Foundation,
the EFE Council and our
business and industry partners.

We are grateful for the support of over 46 donors
who made this year's scholarships possible.

Thank you to all the donors who contributed
\$67,400 in scholarships!

Congratulations Seniors!

Congratulations Outstanding Seniors!

Our final wish for you is that you remember these five important life lessons that we learned from Dr. Seuss:

1. “Today you are YOU, that is truer than true. There is no one alive who is Youer than You!”
2. “Why fit in when you were born to stand out?”
3. “You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose.”
4. “Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don’t matter and those who matter don’t mind.”
5. “Today, I shall behave as if this is the day I will be remembered.”

Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency
Education for Employment

Outstanding Senior Awards

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