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New Bedford Students Win College Scholarships

NEW BEDFORD – The Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts has awarded college scholarships from 12 funds to recent graduates of New Bedford High School (NBHS) Greater New Bedford Vocational Technical High School (Voc-Tech), and the New Bedford Global Learning Charter Public School.

Jillian Silva-Jones, a 2011 NBHS graduate, was awarded the \$1,300 **Frank and Eleanor Gracie Family Scholarship** to study neuroscience at the College of the Holy Cross. This scholarship was established by Frank Gracie, Jr. to honor the memory of his wife Eleanor and sons David and Paul.

The \$4,175 **Thomas S. Hathaway Scholarship** was awarded this year to **Ansel Duff of New Bedford**, who was the valedictorian for the 2011 NBHS graduating class and is attending Harvard University. The Hathaway Scholarship is awarded to Greater New Bedford students who have been accepted or are currently enrolled at **Harvard University**.

Four recent graduates were award the **Jacobs Family New Bedford High Schools Scholarship**, a four-year, \$30,000 scholarship awarded each year to seniors who plan to study engineering, math or science, including computer science, in college. The fund was established at CFSEMA by city native and QUALCOMM founder Dr. Irwin Jacobs and his wife, Joan Klein Jacobs. The Jacobs Scholarship recipients are:

- ✓ **Hannah Dayton**, NBHS graduate who is attending the Univ. of Vermont.
- ✓ **Kendra Vieira**, NBHS graduate who is attending UMass Dartmouth.
- ✓ **Shirley Zhen**, NBHS graduate who is attending UMass Amherst.
- ✓ **Emily Westgate**, a graduate of the Global Learning Charter School who will attend Brown University.

The Nate King Memorial Scholarship Fund was established by Nate's family in 2010. Nate was a 2009 graduate of New Bedford High School, where he was a standout swimmer, and worked as a lifeguard at the New Bedford YMCA. The \$500 scholarship, intended for NBHS seniors who are on the swim team, was awarded this year to **Althea Sylvia**, who is attending Stonehill College. Althea graduated this year with highest honors and was captain of the swim team.

Justin Vieira and Charlene DaSilva, 2011 NBHS graduates, have each been awarded a \$5,000 scholarship from the **Lipsky-Whittaker Scholarship Fund**. This fund was established to celebrate the lives of John Lipsky and George Whittaker, who lived together for 52 years in a committed, loving relationship. George a New Bedford native, and John, a Rhode Island native, returned to Greater New Bedford when they retired in 1980. Throughout their lives, they faced a world that was hostile to gay men and lesbians, and also witnessed the devastation of the AIDS epidemic, as so many of their close friends and colleagues died of the disease. Their wish was to use their resources to help end the epidemic of AIDS and the climate of fear, hostility and rejection they had experienced. To that end, the Lipsky-Whittaker Fund was launched.

Justin is attending Mass. Maritime Academy while Charlene is enrolled at UMass Dartmouth.

Two New Bedford residents and UMass Dartmouth jewelry/metalwork students have been awarded the **Marion Hamlet Award for Jewelry/Metals Education Support Scholarship**, which provides tuition and other educational assistance to UMass Dartmouth undergraduate and graduates students attending workshops or study abroad within existing academic programs. **Avery Lucas** received \$2,100 for expenses related to a

Society of North American Goldsmiths (SNAG) conference he attended in Seattle and a craft work study program at Haystack Mountain School in Maine; **Grace Hillard-Koshinsky** received a \$900 award to attend the same conference and craft program.

A \$2,100 **Kathleen Joyce Nelson Scholarship** was awarded to 2011 NBHS graduate **Alexandra Medeiros**. The Scholarship Fund was established by David and Joyce Nelson in memory of their late daughter, Kathleen Joyce Nelson. This fund provides an annual college scholarship to a **New Bedford High School** senior, with preference given to students who have struggled with cancer or have an affiliation with the cancer-stricken population through community service, employment, volunteer work, or family involvement.

Two \$500 scholarships have been awarded to **Aaron Sughrue of Dartmouth** and **Cara Zajac of New Bedford** from the **New Bedford High School, Class of 1960, Fund**, established to provide tuition assistance to Greater New Bedford graduating seniors whose parent or grandparent was a NBHS graduate. Aaron is attending UMass Dartmouth, while Cara is enrolled at Tulane University's School of Engineering and Natural Sciences.

The New Bedford Woman's Club awards annual scholarships to one graduating senior each from NBHS and Voc-Tech. This year, \$450 awards were given to **Ariel Gomes-Williams, a 2011 NBHS graduate**, and **Drew Frenette**, who graduated from Voc-Tech. Ariel plans to study biology at Smith College, while Drew is majoring in criminal justice at Endicott College.

The New Bedford Woman's Club was founded in 1909 to promote civic improvements and to provide an organized social center for women in Greater New Bedford.

The **Katherine Hassan Penton, New Bedford Class of 1948, Scholarship** of \$3,000 was awarded to 2011 NBHS graduate **Victoria Saber**, who is majoring in Business at Simmons College. The Katherine Hassan Penton Scholarship was established for NBHS seniors who plan to major in a business or professional occupation. A New Bedford native who became a successful businesswoman, Katherine Penton established the scholarship in appreciation for the opportunities her education at NBHS and life in New Bedford have afforded her.

This year, the **Louis M. Rusitzky Scholarship** for a graduating NBHS senior who will major in business at a college or university was awarded to **Cynthia Delmas**. She will receive \$2,200 toward her education at Gordon College, where she is majoring in Business.

The Fund was established by Louis Rusitzky at CFSEMA to serve as a reminder to graduates of New Bedford's history in past centuries of economic strength in whaling, textiles and ocean products. Mr. Rusitzky also hopes the awards will inspire NBHS graduates to return to the city and establish businesses, especially manufacturing ones that will provide employment, and draw suppliers and related businesses to the area.

The **Ellery R. Sherman Memorial Scholarship Fund** scholarship, a \$1,000 award intended for NBHS graduating seniors who attended the John Avery Parker School, was awarded to **Hannah Dayton**.

The CFSEMA committee that reviews the scholarship applications includes CFSEMA Board Members Seth Garfield, Chair, Margherita Baldwin, and George Oliveira; Mercy Cover of SEEAL; Lorraine Khazan from PACE; Kate Carney Larisa from the Patrick Carney Foundation; Albert Lees III, owner of Lees Market in Westport; Mary Schwartz, who was a member of the Lewin Scholarship Foundation when it merged with the Community Foundation; and Omari Walker, principal of Resiliency Preparatory School in Fall River.

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