

CHS awards \$74,000 in scholarships

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COVENTRY — Like most jobs, the teachers who are employed at the Coventry High School have a portion of their pay check taken out for various mandatory federal and state tax deductions, temporary disability insurance and social security.

A large portion of those teachers have also voluntarily donated another portion of their check to a special school-operated fund — the Coventry Teachers' Alliance Scholarship Fund.

The Coventry Teachers' Alliance Scholarship Fund was established in 1981 by teachers at the school to as-

sist Coventry High School seniors as they move on to their next educational endeavor, whether that be a technical school or a two- or a four-year college, Suzanne Tracy, said.

Every other week the teachers who participate in the program make a contribution from their paychecks toward the fund. The school supporters also solicit contributions from various outside donors, including local businesses, community members, and families of present and former Coventry High School students and teachers. The Coventry Teachers' Alliance members match those donations through their bi-weekly contributions.

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Submitted Photo

Alexandra Titus receives her certificate from Suzanne Tracy, a Coventry High School teacher who is also committee chair of the Coventry Teachers' Alliance, which offers the scholarships.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Nicole Adamo	Kimberly Garner	Caitlin Oliveira
Richard Allen	Mercedes Goetzinger	Marina Paiva
Alexander Ancone	Grace Arthur	Jessica Papa
Nicole Anderson	Courtney Greco	Jennifer Pare
Danielle Ascoli	Stephanie Grenier	Alysa Pearson
Matthew Barnes	Lacee Griffiths	Eric Peloso
Lauren Bartlett	Emily Hawwer	Martina Pereira
Christopher Benson	Kelly Hemberger	Lynn Pesola
Kerri Bestwick	Kayla Hetherman	Ashley Pezza
Nicolina Botelho	Jessica Imondi	Daniel Pomfret
Jessica Bouchard	Keith Ivone	Rebecca Ponder
Michael Brouillette	Jared Jacavone	Brenna Pugliese
Mark Busby	Joshua Johansen	Alexandra Pullano
Abby Card	Brett Kingsborough	Sara Raseleski
Alexander Carley	Kenneth Kirkland	Alyssa Rogers
Jacqueline Carlson	Danielle Kitchin	William Sacks
Stephanie Carlu	Crystal Kusma	Shaina Santagata
Shaylyn Charpentier	Adam Labrie	Nicholas Santilli
Michael Chucka	Meagan Lasorsa	Sarah Seltzer
Zachary Cinquegrana	Kristen Leveille	Katlyn Sevigny
Allison Colwell	Kassandra Lima	Megan Shaffer
Ghyllian Conley	Karissa Loffredo	Shalini Shah
Katelyn Corp	Michael Lyman	Mary Simas
Kayla Davis	Katy MacAndrew	Nicole Smith
Hailey DeBlois	Jessica MacAndrew	Catalina Snape
Chris Depietro	Matthew Marcella	Erik Stamp
Ian Doelling	Alyssa Marshall	Christine Stefanik
Amy Donilon	Brittney Marsocci	Amanda Studley
Stephanie D'Onofrio	Andrea Masse	Shannon Sullivan
Amie Durand	Katie McGee	Daniel Swedits
Christopher Eagleson	John McIntire	Brandon Sweeney
Jaimee Enos	Erica Migneault	Katie Sweet
Aaron Faiola	Bethany Mochrie	Samantha Taylor
Allison Faria	Jessica Mokler	Alexandra Titus
Jessica Farrell	Jarrad Morelli	Michaela Tracy
Kayla Flores	Michael Nagy	Stephanie Turgeon
Nicole Forde	Kristen Nault	Richelle Ware
Kristen Fournier	Kelly Nix	Eryn Wheeler
Steven Francis	Alissa Nonnenmacher	Kirsten Wilson
Robert Fratantuono	Matthew O'Brien	Justin Yehle

CHS teachers support students

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In the first year that the fund existed, the committee awarded ten scholarships totaling \$8,000, Tracy said.

Tracy, a teacher at the school who is also committee chair of the alliance, says support for the program has gradually increased over the years. Over the past three decades this committee has presented thousands of awards and over \$750,000 to the young men and women of Coventry.

This year, the alliance awarded 120 scholarships worth \$74,000. Tracy said students can receive either a \$500 or \$1,000 scholarship award and that this year there were 28 \$1,000 awards and 92 \$500 awards.

Samantha Taylor, a senior at Coventry High School, was just one of the \$1,000 scholarship award recipients from this year. She said this award, which she said she plans to use toward the purchase of books for classes in the fall, is greatly appreciated by herself and her family.

"I plan to go to Rhode Island College for special education teaching, but tuition, no matter where you go, is really hard for people to afford es-

pecially with the economy what it is right now so absolutely any money that does not have to come out of pocket will help me and my parents who are helping me pay for tuition in the long run," Taylor said. "I think it is very generous of the teachers to contribute some of their own money to help us out."

Taylor said she also applied for another scholarship through her mother's employer, but that the school's application was much easier.

"To apply I just got an application sheet from Mrs. Tracey and on it I had to talk about extracurricular I am involved in, events that I have done and other stuff like that and then I guess I was put into a random raffle drawing to see if I would receive it and I did," she said. "I am just grateful that I was one of the students to be picked."

According to Tracy, the only restrictions is that students who are applying for the \$1,000 award have to have at least 3.0 grade point average, but for the \$500 award, Tracy said, there are no requirements, "as long as they are a CHS senior, they can apply."

Tracy said the students who were selected to receive scholarship

awards were lucky because every year the school tends to get more applicants than they have eligible funding and have to resort to a random lottery for selection.

"We usually do get more applicants; this year we had around 140 applicants and 120 scholarship awards, so odds are good, but not perfect," she said.

According to Tracy, "this is the only scholarship program of such magnitude in the state of Rhode Island that is funded by teacher and staff contributions."

She said it is a voluntary program for teachers to participate in, but a large percentage do. She said the administration and even some retired teachers still donate.

"It is just such a real positive way for us to give students a nice graduation goodbye and also bond with the community donors," Tracy said. "No matter how you look at it, it is a good program."

This year, Centreville Bank, Randolph Bank and the Coventry Credit Union were just a few of the many community donors to help support the scholarship fund, Tracy said.

The awards were presented to the student recipients at the school's 29th annual Coventry Teachers Alliance Scholarship Awards Night event, which was held on Tuesday evening in the Coventry High School auditorium.

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