



Submitted photo

Tyler Steele, a Commended Student in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program (left) mugs for the camera with Coventry High guidance counselor Gerry Zanella.

Oakers in elite club

CHS scholars in line for national merit scholarships

ANITA E. BAFFONI

abaffoni@ricentral.com

COVENTRY— Through much hard work and dedication to his education, Coventry High School senior Tyler Steele has been named a Commended Student in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program. A total of roughly 34,000 individuals are recognized as Commended Students throughout the country and he will now join the prestigious list.

“Tyler, now as a commended student, scored very high on his SAT and ACT tests and the College Board and able to put on college applications and in his records in guidance,” Coventry High Principal Mike Hobin said. “It really is remarkable.”

Those recognized as Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered in the competition. By taking the 2013 Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, Tyler was one chosen to be one of the lucky academic scholar winners.

A letter of recommendation from Coventry High School and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, which conducts the program, will be presented by Principal Hobin to the talented senior students.

College is something Steele is looking forward to in order to further his education. His top choice for school would be the Massachusetts Institute for Technology (MIT) and it would be a dream of Steele’s to

Oakers on list of National Merit Scholar standouts

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attend. He said that he has several other colleges to fall back on in case he doesn't get into MIT, but he is hopeful.

"I wasn't expecting to do so well on the tests," Tyler Steele said. "I am looking into being a software developer or engineer."

Two other students, Madison Cook-Hines and Jessica Bellows, qualified as National merit Semi-Finalists and will not be running for a significant college scholarship. Still, Hobin expressed as much pride in them and their place in the school's academic annals.

"We haven't had this here in quite some time," Hobin said.

The student application for the National Merit Scholarship Pro-

gram has various qualifications all to determine whether the individual meets the requirements to participate. It is based on the students meeting high academic standards.

In February, over 14,000 semifinalists will be notified by mail saying if they have advanced to Finalist standing. The high school principal will present the winning students with a certificate.

In the beginning of October, the two Coventry semifinalists will submit their final application to be entered to win the scholarship among approximately 16,000 others. Once the semifinalists are chosen, they are the highest scoring entrants in each state and Bellows or Cook-Hines will represent Rhode Island in the finals.