

Academic All Stars: The Sentinel celebrates aspiring mathematicians, scientists, engineers



Dennis R.J. Geppert/The Holland Sentinel From left, Abhay Mathur, Mike Quick, Chelsea Kasper, Haley Krause, and Amanda Witte.
The Holland Sentinel
Posted May 25, 2010 @ 05:30 AM
Holland, MI —

Each year, The Sentinel asks local high schools to nominate award-winning performing artists, visual artists, writers, poets, dancers, musicians, actors, scientists, mathematicians and techies who exemplify the spirit of creativity, innovation and ingenuity of our most valuable future resource: 21st century intellectual capital. Hats off to these local examples:

Black River Public School: Abhay Mathur, medical volunteer marvel

Son of Sanjeev and Ritu Mathur

CREDITS: National Honor Society, student council, volunteer at Holland Hospital, member on Recreation Committee for Holland Youth Advisory Council (HYAC), REACH program at Hope, \$10,000 scholarship to University of Michigan honors program.

IN HIS WORDS: “My grandparents immigrated to America in 1980 in order to give their children and grandchildren more opportunities. My parents, aunts and uncles have all excelled in their fields. Now it is my turn.”

Fennville: Marissa Ginzal, quiz bowl queen

Daughter of Michael and Margaret Ginzal

CREDITS: Quiz Bowl, Students Assisting Students Anonymously, dual enrollment courses through Lake Michigan College, the Leon and Josephine (Wade) Shepard scholarship, The Frederick “Laddie” Mesyar scholarship.

IN HER WORDS: I just want to do well in all of my subjects and work. I want to be successful wherever I end up. My parents are a big help to me. All the people that are around me inspire me.

Holland: David Moore, mathematics marvel

Son of Anne and Scott Moore

CREDITS: Student council, class president, National Honor Society, National Art Society, Holland High representative on the Holland/Zeeland Community Foundation's Youth Advisory Board.

IN HIS WORDS: "Keeping busy has been part of my life for as long as I can remember. The Holland Public Schools have recognized my drive and special interest in math since middle school, when I was allowed to advance at my own rate. In ninth grade, I had the opportunity to take two years of high school math in the PATH program through Hope College. After completing all the other math courses offered at Holland High, I was able to dual enroll at Hope College this year and take two more semesters of upper level math. I love math so much because there is almost always a right answer.

"

Holland Christian: Amanda Witte, chemistry whiz

Daughter of Alan and Brenda Witte

CREDITS: Student council, Holland Rescue Mission volunteer, 2008 City of Holland Youth Social Justice Award recipient, Holland Youth Advisory Council, Hope College Chemistry Department summer research intern, National Merit Special Scholarship recipient.

IN HER WORDS: "When I was accepted last summer as a high school intern in a chemistry research lab at Hope College, I was elated. I did not realize what a significant impact it would have on my future ambitions. Science, especially chemistry, has always brought me knowledge and enlightenment from discovering things not always predicted. In addition to deepening my passion for chemistry, this experience opened my eyes to the possibilities that reside in research."

Saugatuck: Haley Krause, aspiring doctor

Daughter of Robert and Sigrid Krause

CREDITS: Saugatuck-Douglas Educational Foundation Scholarship, Alumni Honors Scholarship, National Art Honor Society.

IN HER WORDS: "The idea of helping people as part of my future career has always been a dream of mine. I decided that I would use my love of science to achieve this dream and become a doctor. My pediatrician is the person that really inspired me. I've always looked up to him, and I hope that one day I can be as good as him."

West Ottawa: Chelsea Kasper, medical volunteer marvel

Daughter of Karin and Danny Kasper

CREDITS: Cultural Technological Environmental Exchange, class valedictorian, career intern at Holland Hospital.

IN HER WORDS: "What inspires me more than anything else is my potential to do good. I've been blessed with an innate desire to succeed, but more importantly, I want to see what I can accomplish and through these accomplishments, who I can impact. I know I have the ability; I want to ensure that I take that step and do it."

Zeeland East: Olivia Marshall, physics phenom

Daughter of Debra and Kenneth Marshall

CREDITS: Tennis team, youth in government, students senate National Honor Society; recipient of Haworth Scholarship, Cyrus E. Mulder Scholarship and the Zeeland East High School math, physics and Spanish department awards.

IN HER WORDS: "My parents are a large part of what inspires me to do my best. They both work hard to provide for my family. Through their example I have learned how to succeed. I work my hardest to make them proud by succeeding in school and making good choices. The love and support of my grandparents, aunts and uncles also inspires me to do my best. I have been blessed with so many good things that I can not help but be inspired to reach for excellence."

Zeeland West: Michael Quick, robotics rock star

Son of Chuck and Diane Quick

CREDITS: FIRST Robotics, FIRST Lego League mentor and recipient of the Outstanding Young Adult Mentor Award for the State of Michigan, Early Awareness Scholarship from Grand Valley State University.

IN HIS WORDS: "I am inspired by many things. I have always been curious about the way things work and why the world is the way it is. This has driven me to explore and learn as much as I can about the world and the way things work. This has directed me toward the math and science field because everything can be explained with math and science. I have always enjoyed a challenge and enjoyed working through a problem until the answer is found. I am a logical thinker and enjoy the processes involved in mathematics. Math and science are such expansive fields, and I look forward to pushing myself and learning as much as I can."

Copyright 2010 The Holland Sentinel. Some rights reserved