



QuEd up for Education

People and programs impacting our QCSD community

Quakertown Community HS Alumni Assoc. awards 4 scholarships to grads

By Gary Weckselblatt

Four seniors have each been awarded \$1,000 scholarships by the Alumni Association of Quakertown Community High School.

Matt Johnson, Jordan Meyers, Samantha Norton and Nikki Vanelli are the scholarship winners. The announcement came during the organization's annual meeting on June 2.

"These are students who are truly giving back to the community," said Melea Rupert, president of the association. "They really impressed us during their interviews."

Rupert, who worked in the Quakertown Community School District for 40 years, said those who applied for the award were all good students. However, "Something in the interview said to me, 'I want to help this kid.' It's more of a gut thing. I don't know if \$1,000 will make a difference in their lives, but maybe it gives a little extra boost to a graduating senior. I wish we had 23,000 of these to give out. But these are the four that stood out just a little bit above the others."

The association has been giving out scholarships since 2010. Before this year, it awarded two scholarships. This year it doubled the number to four. Each year, one of the students is a graduate of the Upper Bucks County Technical School.



Jordan is this year's representative from the UBCTS. She plans to pursue a career in health care.

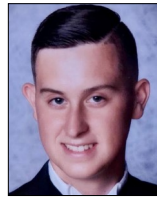
Jordan's love of health care has led her to seek a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She plans on starting with her Associates Degree in Nursing at Bucks County Community College. She then plans on transferring to Moravian for her RN and then her BSN.

"She impressed us right away," Rupert said. "She has a very engaging personality, and is very mature."

Jordan works at Dock Woods senior care residential facility in Lansdale as a certified nurse assistant. She is a member of the National Technical Honor Society, and has made the first honors list every marking period.

"She's a great role model for other students," Rupert said.

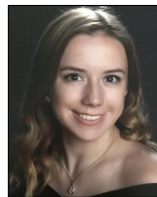
Matt plans to major in biomedical engineering at Rochester



Institute of Technology. He has taken nine classes in the school's Project Lead the Way, pre-engineering curriculum.

Matt is involved with several challenging organizations at school, including the Technology Student Association, Student Council, Key Club and Mini-THON. He is also a varsity soccer player.

"He put together an outstanding presentation," Rupert said. "Matthew is a very bright young man."



Samantha, who goes by Sam, plans to major in early childhood education at Kutztown University and minor in child psychology. She is also considering becoming a reading specialist.

As part of the application process, students are asked to include a peer recommendation.

In Sam's case, Rupert said her friend spoke about her "compassion for others. And that's what came through in her interview."

Nikki was a key member of the softball team that qualified for the playoffs and captain of the cross country team. She plans to major in environmental science at Salve Regina University in Rhode Island.



She's also editor-in-chief of the high school yearbook, a base player in the jazz band, a member of the National Honor Society and

president of Mini-THON. "She's a very well rounded young lady," Rupert said.

In addition to the student awards, the Alumni Association awarded an honorary diploma to Ray Ely, the principal at Milford Junior High School when it opened in 1974. Harry Quinke, a former teacher and assistant principal to Ely, and Ray Fox, vice president of the association and a Milford teacher when the school opened, spoke on behalf of Ely.



"It was a wonderful meeting," Rupert said.

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