

# ST. PAUL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
Print, Web and Social Media**

Contact:

Melissa Lindquist  
St. Paul Catholic High School  
1001 Stafford Avenue  
Bristol, CT 06010  
Phone: 860.584.0911 x430  
<http://www.spchs.com>  
[mlindquist@spchs.com](mailto:mlindquist@spchs.com)

## **Scholarship Earners are Named by The Thomas and Elsie Deeley Foundation**

Bristol, CT – May 1, 2023 – Four scholarship earners have been named by the Thomas and Elsie Deeley Foundation, a not-for-profit private foundation established by their two children in 1996 to memorialize the “helping hand” approach they learned from their parents. The foundation grants annual scholarships for deserving graduating seniors planning to attend college. The Deeley Foundation had previously partnered with Sacred Heart High School in Waterbury and more recently has partnered with St. Paul Catholic High School in Bristol.

These scholarships are based on the belief that personal involvement with recipients creates a tangible bond between the student and the donor. Each recipient is assigned at least one former scholarship earner as their mentor throughout college and beyond. Hopefully, this bond will encourage the scholarship recipients to offer personal support to someone else after they graduate by “paying it forward” – in the form of mentoring and/or financial assistance.

This year the awards total \$131,312 over 4 years and the recipients are as follows:

**Dylan Bird**, who will be graduating from SPCHS was awarded a scholarship to attend St. Lawrence University where he will major in International Studies. His mentor will be Jake Rinaldi who graduated from Williams College, spent a year studying at Peking University, is fluent in Chinese, and a doctoral candidate in Middle Eastern and Asian Studies at Cambridge University in the U.K. where he is researching the relationship between China and North Korea. Dylan's second mentor will be Nathan Stellmach, a recent graduate of SPCHS who is attending Middlebury College and majoring in Political Science. Dylan shared this after receiving news of the scholarship he earned, “I am so grateful for the opportunity that The Deeley Foundation has offered me, and I plan to use this opportunity to further my education to make a difference in the world. I am also blessed to have two amazing mentors during my college years, and one of them being an alum of St. Paul Catholic High School. I look forward to hearing from them about their experiences.”

**Marcus Concepcion**, who will be graduating from SPCHS after transferring from SHHS was awarded a scholarship to attend Worcester Polytechnic Institute where he will major in Aerospace Engineering. His mentor will be Brian Luis who obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering from Boston University. While an undergraduate, he

# ST. PAUL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

---

received an internship at Sikorsky Aircraft and is currently a Development and Research Engineer at Boston Scientific. Marcus tells us “I was at a restaurant when I received a text from Mr. Deeley asking me to call. After stepping outside, I was ecstatic to learn that I had earned the Deeley Foundation Scholarship, so much so that I was pacing around my car with a smile on my face during the entire phone call. I felt honored that my efforts were recognized by people who look to improve future generations. I cannot thank the Deeley Foundation enough for the opportunity to succeed and, with this honor, I will make it my goal to excel at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and make the most out of this blessing. Above all, I feel honored to be among the bastions of character and academics that are part of the Deeley Foundation.”

**Kevin Grodecki**, who will be graduating from SPCHS was awarded a scholarship to attend Western Michigan State University where he will major in Aviation Management. His mentor will be Steven Naylor who is a graduate of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy and is currently an officer in the United States Coast Guard. After completing two years in the command of the USCGC Robert Ward, where he supervised four officers and a crew of 22 while coordinating the activities of his cutter with military pilots in interdicting drug smuggling and illegal aliens off the west coast, Steven is now serving as a Military Flag Aide to the Atlantic Area Commander who oversees half of the east coast to the Arabian Gulf. Kevin says this of his earning the scholarship, “I am very grateful for receiving the Deeley Scholarship, it is going to help advance my academic career and pursuit of becoming an airline pilot. Having a mentor such as Steven Naylor will put me at ease as I head into college. Being a first-generation college student, having him as a mentor will help make the transition process easier and guide me toward many different opportunities. Learning about the experiences that Mr. Naylor had in the Coast Guard will allow me to see what other aviation careers are out there and what it takes to have an extraordinary career such as his.

**Gabriela Perez**, who will be graduating from Holy Cross High School, after transferring from Sacred Heart High School, was awarded a scholarship to attend Southern Connecticut State University where she will major in Psychology. The following is what Gabriela had to say after learning she earned the scholarship, “I truly could not believe it when I got news that I had earned this scholarship. This award has lifted an immense weight off of my family and my shoulders, and I am beyond grateful to the Deeley Foundation for their generosity. Not only for the scholarship but also for the mentor that they have connected me with. College can be a fun but challenging experience, so knowing I have a mentor to guide me through it all is amazing.” Gabriela’s mentor will be Katie Pelletier who is a senior at Southern Connecticut State University majoring in Speech and Language Pathology. Katie will be attending the University of New Haven in the fall to obtain her master’s degree in speech.

Mr. Cary Dupont ‘72, St. Paul President/Chief Administrator says, “We are excited and grateful to partner with the Thomas and Elsie Deeley Foundation and thank them for their generosity in supporting our graduates as they pursue their college aspirations. Congratulations to this year’s scholarship earners.”

Photo attachments

###

*St. Paul Catholic High School, established in 1966, is a coeducational secondary school of the Archdiocese of Hartford, serving 400 students from over 30 communities in central Connecticut, China, South Korea and Vietnam. Our vision, to be a truly great Catholic high school, is achieved by living our core values of Faith, Character, Community, Excellence, and Service.*