

ST. PAUL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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2026 Scholarship Earners are Named by The Thomas and Elsie Deeley Foundation

Bristol, CT – May 11, 2026 – Two scholarship earners from St. Paul Catholic High School 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.

These scholarships are founded on the belief that meaningful personal connections between donors and recipients create lasting impact. Each student recipient is paired with at least one former scholarship recipient who serves as a mentor throughout their college journey and beyond. It is the hope that these relationships will inspire recipients to one day “pay it forward” by providing guidance, encouragement, and/or financial support to future students.

This year the awards total \$60,000 over four years and the recipients are as follows:

Sam Sirica is receiving a scholarship to attend the University of Connecticut, where he plans to major in engineering. His mentor will be Brian Luis. Brian is a 2014 graduate of Sacred Heart High School and obtained his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in engineering from Boston University. He is a Senior Research and Development Engineer at Boston Scientific Corporation.

Liam Gaffney is receiving a scholarship to attend the University of Connecticut, where he plans to major in engineering. His mentor will be Nick Rieger, a 2025 graduate of St. Paul Catholic High School who is a rising sophomore at UConn, majoring in engineering.

St. Paul Catholic High School President Mr. James J. Cooper shared, “We are grateful to continue our partnership with the Thomas and Elsie Deeley Foundation and deeply appreciate their generosity in supporting our graduates as they pursue their academic endeavors. Congratulations to this year’s scholarship recipients on this outstanding achievement!”

Photo Attachment: (L-R) Liam Gaffney and Sam Sirica

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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, Columbia, 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.