

ST. PAUL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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Scholarship Earners are Named by The Thomas and Elsie Deeley Foundation

Bristol, CT – April 21, 2022 – 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 \$186,412 over 4 years and the recipients are as follows:

Nathan Stellmach from Waterbury, will graduate from St. Paul Catholic High School, after transferring from Sacred Heart High School. He recently was awarded a scholarship to attend Middlebury College, in Vermont where he will major in Political Science. His mentor will be Jake Rinaldi who graduated from Williams, spent a year studying at Peking University, is fluent in Chinese, and is a doctoral candidate in Middle Eastern and Asian studies at Cambridge University in the UK. The following is what Nathan had to say after learning he earned the scholarship, “When I heard that I had earned the Deeley Scholarship, I was honored and humbled to have my work recognized by such a distinguished foundation. At the same time, the opportunity to be a part of a group of incredibly successful awardees, past, present, and future, means more than anything.”

Gillian Smith, a Southington resident, will graduate from St. Paul Catholic High School in a few weeks. She was awarded a scholarship to attend Rensselaer Polytechnic institute, in New York and major in Mechanical Engineering. Her mentors will be Heather Brown, a graduate from UConn with a degree in Bioengineering. She is currently working on a research and development team with Medtronic, a global leader in medical technology, services, and solutions. Her second mentor, Jenna Madigan, will be graduating from Fairfield University with a degree in Bioengineering where she received the prestigious E. Gerald Corrigan Endowed Scholarship and recently accepted a job with Medtronic. After earning the scholarship Gillian said, “I am so excited and grateful that I am one of the recipients of the Deeley Foundation

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Scholarship. I am looking forward to having two amazing mentors throughout college. They both are extremely accomplished and it is helpful to know that I can turn to them if I ever need help with anything since they have been through similar experiences already. Thank you to the Deeley Foundation for their generosity.”

Madeline Kurnik who lives in Kensington, will graduate from St. Paul Catholic High School this May. She was awarded a scholarship to attend Fairfield University in Fairfield, CT where she will major in Psychology. “Receiving the Deeley Scholarship was absolutely life changing, and their generosity is something I will be forever grateful for. Their belief and trust in me is something that is irreplaceable. Continuing my education at Fairfield University with the support of the Deeley Foundation is simply amazing. I am so thankful for this opportunity.” Madeline said after learning she earned this scholarship. Her mentors will be Liz DeCrisanti and Hayley Iannantuoni. Liz will be a junior at Fairfield in the School of Nursing; has served as a mentor for nursing students and also served as a "new student leader" for teaching freshmen at Fairfield. Hayley obtained her bachelor's and master's from Southern Connecticut State University. She recently accepted a position at Silver Hill Hospital, one of the nation's top psychiatric hospitals for adults and adolescents. She is also working towards her LCSW certification.

Ashley Galvao, who will be graduating from Pomperaug High School after transferring from Sacred Heart High School was awarded a scholarship to attend Central Connecticut State University in New Britain where she will major in Nursing. Her mentor will be Aidan Knappe who will be a sophomore in the School of Nursing at Southern Connecticut State University.

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 attachment: Madeline Kurnik (left), Nathan Stellmach (center), and Gillian Smith (right)

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St. Paul Catholic High School, established in 1966, is a coeducational secondary school of the Archdiocese of Hartford, serving 420 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.

For more information, please contact Melissa Lindquist in the Office of Advancement at 860-584-0911 x30 or mlindquist@spchs.com.