

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT BIOS 2017

2017 STEM Scholarship Recipients

Madison Forde is a senior at Algonquin Regional High School and is planning to attend Boston College in the fall. She has been committed to serving and giving back to the community by volunteering at soup kitchens, and stepping out of her comfort zone by helping to build a house with Habitat for Humanity. Madison's commitment to service also extends to extra-curricular activities, where she has been an active member of service clubs, the music program at her high school, and the captain of the basketball team. Madison is extremely motivated and a hard worker with a passion for serving others.

Hudson Bickford is a senior at Joseph P. Keefe Technical High School planning to attend Massachusetts Maritime Academy to study Marine Engineering. Despite overcoming many challenges in his academic career, Hudson managed to stay focused and teach himself new skills. Outside of the classroom, he has been involved in playing soccer for his school since freshman year, has led as a SkillsUSA officer and been a part of the National Honors Society. Hudson is looking forward to seeing what the future has in store for him on this new journey.

Ian Bourdon is a senior at Algonquin Regional High School and is planning to attend the University of Richmond. Since the age of eight, his deep passion for science has motivated him to become involved in the field, and to take on many opportunities, such as becoming an active member of the New York, Delaware Valley, and Rochester Paleontology Clubs where he discovered his first fossil. Ian has taken AP courses where he was able to take the techniques and skills he learned in the field, and apply them in the classroom. Ian is very ambitious and hard-working. He intends on taking his passion for science, and turning it into dedication and commitment throughout college.

Brian Burns is a senior at Joseph P. Keefe Technical High School planning to attend Wentworth Institute of Technology in the fall. Throughout his childhood, he was constantly surrounded by construction and tradesman in his family. He followed his passion for carpentry by attending a trade school, where he obtained the essential knowledge and skills he needs for his future career. Brian is motivated and plans to study civic engineering.

Ryder Michelle is a senior at The Rivers School in Natick and is planning to attend John Hopkins University. Her passion for science first developed at seven years old after her grandparents took her on a trip to the Museum of Science. Ryder has followed her passion by taking part in science programs, which have enriched her knowledge and given her endless opportunities. She hopes her motivation and passion will help her pursue an education to achieve her goals of becoming a doctor.

Benjamin Plucinski is a senior at Hudson High School and is planning to attend Northeastern University in the fall. His passion for helping others and his understanding for how things work has motivated him to enter his school's engineering program. Benjamin challenged himself to follow his passion by taking engineering electives, and collaborating alongside his teacher to work on various. One such project being the construction of a 3D printed prosthetic hand for a local girl. Benjamin will be furthering his education by studying mechanical engineering in an effort to pursue his career path of becoming an engineer of medical devices.

Megan Sheeran is a senior at Hopkinton High School and will be attending Boston University in the fall. Megan's interest and curiosity in science have led her to pursue a career someday in a STEM related field. She participated in a week-long program for girls her age with an interest in STEM and started the "Women in STEM" club at her high school. Megan's drive has motivated her to come up with creative ways to preserve the club as relevant and interesting to the girls at her high school. She also credits the club as one of the biggest accomplishments of her high school career. Megan is planning to study biology in college with the hopes to one day obtain doctorate and being able to research in a biology lab.

2017 Lemieux Scholarship Recipients

Kendra Pantalone is a senior at Joseph P. Keefe Technical High School planning to attend her dream school, Arizona State University, in the fall. Kendra's perseverance through hardships to achieve her goals has set her apart from her peers. Apart from being a Certified Nursing Assistant and beginning a co-operative working experience, Kendra has participated in SkillsUSA throughout high school, even getting the chance to campaign for a State Officer role. Kendra will be continuing her education at ASU in the fall studying Nursing, a career path that she could have never imagined she would be embarking on.

Rachel Blasko is a senior at Assabet Valley High School planning to attend her top choice school, The University of Massachusetts Amherst. Apart from being the Varsity Captain of her high school's cheerleading team and working part-time, Rachel spends time observing animal surgeries at a local veterinarian's office to prepare herself for Veterinarian school. Rachel's passion for science, animals, and anatomical and biological medicine has motivated her to excel academically and motivate her to achieve her goals. Rachel plans to obtain her bachelor's degree with hopes of one day receiving her Veterinary of Medicine Doctorate Degree (VMD).

Nicole Batista is a senior at Marian High School planning to attend college in the fall but has yet to decide on a college or university. Nicole and her family emigrated to the U.S. from Brazil in 2001 and Nicole became an official U.S. Citizen in 2010. Nicole accredits her multicultural up-bringing as one of her life's hardest challenges but has overcome the obstacles in her life with great poise. Apart from being a student ambassador all four years of high school, a Marian Mentor this year, working 4 part-time jobs, Nicole has completed 80 hours of community service. Nicole plans to study Psychology in college with the hopes of receiving her Master's Degree in Industrial & Organizational Psychology.

Nalidee Gonzalez is a senior at Joseph P. Keefe Technical High School planning to attend Middlesex Community College in the fall. Nalidee has overcome some major obstacles in her life, but her hardworking mentality and drive have kept her focused and passionate to pursue a career in the healthcare industry. Growing up in a single parent household, Nalidee has had to make sacrifices in her life to help take care of her family. But her family values and upbringing have helped shape her into becoming a remarkable young woman. Nalidee plans to pursue an education to become an Ultrasound Technician with the hopes of one day receiving a Master's Degree.

Annie DeBarros is a senior at Dover-Sherborn High School and plans to attend Johnson & Wales University in the fall. Annie emigrated to the U.S. from Dakar, Senegal in 2012 with the goal of learning English and to finish her education. Annie's family has never finished, or in some cases even received, an education and Annie will be the first in her family to be going to college. Annie is undecided on her major in college but is interested in some of the wonderful majors offered by JWU including: International Relations, Fashion Merchandising & Retailing, Bakery Arts, and Psychology.

2017 Kelleher Scholarship Recipient

Sarah Lincoln is a senior at Hopkinton High School planning to attend the University of Vermont in the fall. Sarah has adoration for children and has spent a lot of her time working with children which has led to her desire to pursue an education in Teaching. Sarah is currently an Assistant Teacher at Building Blocks Academy where she helps oversee a classroom of children, gaining valuable work experience prior to beginning her higher education. Apart from being an aspiring teacher, Sarah is a Volunteer Swim coach for the GMPI Special Olympics, a Peer Tutor at her high school, and a member of the National Honor Society since November 2015.

2017 Flutie Scholarship Recipient

Caleb Heino is a senior at Joseph P. Keefe Technical High School and plans to attend MassBay Community College in the fall with the hopes of attending a four-year Massachusetts college shortly after. Caleb has overcome adversity and struggles in school to excel in his education and personal life. Caleb will pursue an education in Mechanical Engineering and is determined to succeed in all aspects of his life moving forward. Caleb has strong family values and credits many of his success and achievements to his mom, who has given him the tools he has needed for success.