



38th annual

**OUTSTANDING
VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL
STUDENT AWARDS**

Ceremony



Thursday, April 11, 2024

5:30 pm

Mechanics Hall, Worcester, MA

Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators, Inc. (MAVA) and
Massachusetts Career & Technical Educators Organization (MassCTE)

Dear Friends of Vocational Technical Education,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the 38th Annual Outstanding Vocational Technical Student Awards Ceremony. The Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators (MAVA) and the Massachusetts Career & Technical Educators Organization (MassCTE) are pleased to again co-sponsor this event.

This annual celebration provides a most fitting opportunity to recognize truly exceptional young men and women. Selected by their local school, each student has excelled in his or her academic and career pursuits, while actively engaging in service to their school and community. They represent the very best in vocational-technical education.

We congratulate our outstanding students and wish them continued happiness and success in all of their future endeavors. We also acknowledge and thank their parents, teachers, and friends for supporting them throughout their high school careers.

Sincerely,

Heidi T. Ricco, Ed.D.
President, MAVA

MAVA

Kyla Martin
President, MassCTE



MAVA ~ Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators is the organization designed to provide vocational technical administrators in Massachusetts a vehicle for establishing a quality delivery system and leadership opportunities. The organization includes administrators from schools across the Commonwealth that offer Chapter 74 approved vocational technical programs, including regional vocational schools, city and comprehensive high schools, county agricultural schools and a vocational collaborative. MAVA is committed to providing leadership in the effort to prepare youth and adults for the transition to successful careers.

MassCTE ~ The Massachusetts Career and Technical Educators Organization was founded in 1930. The organization is dedicated to providing leadership in the promotion and development of career, vocational, and technical education in Massachusetts. The membership is composed of teachers, administrators, guidance counselors, teacher-educators, and others interested in developing and/or promoting career, vocational, and technical education programs at the secondary, post-secondary, and adult levels in Massachusetts.

A Message from the Event Coordinator...

It is an honor to facilitate the 2024 Outstanding Vocational Technical Student-of-the-Year Awards Ceremony. Tonight, 54 amazing students are being recognized for their distinguished achievements and notable accomplishments.

Tonight's celebration mirrors the enthusiasm and innovative efforts of vocational technical administrators, educators, students, parents and many supporters across Massachusetts.

Special thanks to:

- Participating Chapter 74 approved school districts (54)
- Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators (MAVA)
- Massachusetts Career and Technical Educators Organization (MassCTE)
- Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- SkillsUSA Massachusetts
- Blue Hills Regional Technical School Graphic Communications Program
Printing of Invitations and Programs
- Joseph P. Keefe Technical High School Job Entry Training and Landscape Design and Construction Program ~ Floral Arrangements
- South Shore RTHS Culinary Arts Program ~ Dessert Platters
- Worcester Technical High School Culinary Arts Program ~ Chefs and Servers
- Quincy High School Film and Television Production Program
Video Production
- Steve Sharek, David Ferreira, Kathleen Conole, Vicki Serra, Karen Ward, and Jeanne Rayner for their continued support.

Thank you and enjoy this memorable evening!!!

Respectfully,

Keith P. Segalla, Event Coordinator
Outstanding Vocational Technical
Student-of-the-Year Awards Ceremony

OUTSTANDING VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL STUDENT AWARDS CEREMONY

PROGRAM

Dinner

Pledge of Allegiance And Introductions

Kayla Mathieu
SkillsUSA National Officer
Southeastern RVTHS

Master of Ceremonies

Steven C. Sharek
Executive Director, MAVA

Welcome

Honorable Joseph M. Petty
Mayor, City of Worcester

Keynote Speaker

Regina Robinson, Ed.D.
Deputy Commissioner, MA DESE

Remarks

Heidi T. Ricco, Ed.D.
President, MAVA

Kyla Martin
President, MassCTE

Outstanding Vocational Technical Student Awards

Steven C. Sharek

Closing

Kayla Mathieu

ASSABET VALLEY REGIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

Owen Collette

Owen Collette, the son of Andrea and Gary Collette, has excelled in the electrical wiring technology program at Assabet. The top student in the program, he has mastered such skills as interpersonal communications, OSHA safety, advanced electrical concepts, and hands-on applications. A member of the National Honor Society, he is ranked at the top of his class of 270 students. Owen is an active member of SkillsUSA where he earned a gold medal in Telecommunications at the state competition in 2023. He has also been a standout athlete and an All-Star participating in cross country and outdoor track and field where he earned the Most Valuable Player Award and Rookie of the Year Award in 2020. He is active in many community service projects in his hometown of Leicester. A participant in Assabet Valley's co-operative education placement program, he has been employed by Renaud Electric of Sutton as an electrical apprentice involved with the installation and service of transformers. Owen is a recipient of multiple school awards for achievements in his academic and technical programs. He plans to continue his education in the trade with the goal of becoming a licensed electrician.

ATTLEBORO HIGH SCHOOL

Sean Kaswale

Sean Kaswale, the son of Moses Musoke and Haawa Musoke Ndagire of Attleboro, is an exemplary student in the medical assisting program. Sean is described by his instructors as a self-motivated, respectful, and dedicated student who has demonstrated his knowledge and skills both inside and outside the classroom. His professionalism and commitment to the medical assisting field are continually demonstrated by his desire to help others in need. Vice President of the National Technical Honor Society, he is enrolled in multiple AP courses, and has attained an Honors Diploma, all while participating in Bible Club and SkillsUSA, serving as a board member of Best Buddies, and as captain of the cross country, winter, and spring track teams. In his free time, he participates in the St. Paul's Church choir and volunteers two days a week at the Hebron Food Pantry serving clients organic foods. Sean has accepted a full, four-year scholarship to The College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, where he will pursue his education in the medical field as well as the ministry.

BAY PATH REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Daniel Daige

Daniel Daige, the son of Andy and Kathleen Daige of North Brookfield, is an outstanding student in the advanced manufacturing program, where he actively participates in SkillsUSA and Bay Path Robotics. His commitment extends to community service as an Eagle Scout, leading the Veteran's Eagle Scout Community Service Project. Employed at Kinefac Corporation in Worcester, Daniel earned his employer's commendation for his unwavering initiative, work ethic, and organizational skills. His instructors highlight his continued growth, noting his focus, thoughtfulness, and willingness to help his fellow classmates. Daniel recently demonstrated his CAD design prowess in a self-driven Eagle Scout project in which he designed, manufactured, and assembled a flag box with precision. Daniel's dedication to learning and collaboration has placed him at the top of the Senior Class with a 4.0 GPA. Upon graduation, he will pursue a degree in mechanical engineering. He has been accepted to Worcester Polytechnic Institute and UMass Lowell. He is waiting to hear from other universities before deciding.

BLACKSTONE VALLEY REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Sara Lewis

Sara Lewis, the daughter of Stephanie and Gregory Lewis of Bellingham, is an outstanding member of the engineering technology program at Blackstone Valley Tech. She has been an active member of the school community and is ranked third in a very competitive class. Sara has participated in all that Massachusetts vocational schooling has to offer and has been successful in every endeavor. Her clubs and activities include SkillsUSA, DECA, Leo Club, Girls Who Code, Massachusetts Girls in Trade, Model United Nations, National Honor Society, and the National Technical Honor Society. Sara is also a multi-sport athlete and an avid volunteer in the community, with over 150 volunteer hours logged during the past two years. Enrolled in the co-operative education placement program, she is currently working as a mechanical engineer at a local company. Sara will be continuing her education at Northeastern University in the John Martinson Honors Program majoring in mechanical engineering.

BLUE HILLS REGIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Saige O'Keefe

Saige O'Keefe, a resident of Holbrook and the daughter of Dana O'Keefe and Karmin Der, is an exemplary student in the electrical program. Ranked third in the Senior Class with a GPA of 4.1, she excels in her AP and honors courses. Saige has been an active member of SkillsUSA since her sophomore year. As a senior, she serves as vice president of her chapter, and received the Leadership Award. A member of the Superintendent-Director's Student Cabinet, she is also an event volunteer at a local retirement community. Her electrical instructor says that "Saige is a well-rounded student and human being. Her self-motivation, cooperation, peer interaction and people skills consistently make her a role model and advocate to and for other students." Saige has earned her Hot Work and OSHA certifications. She enjoys creative pursuits such as reading, painting, and sketching. Saige hopes to pursue her education at Northeastern University, majoring in construction management.

BRISTOL COUNTY AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL

Lily Ferry

Lily Ferry, the daughter of Matthew Ferry of Westport, grew up on the largest dairy farm in the northeast. The recipient of many FFA awards such as First Place Demonstrations Division I and II; Dairy Judging First Place team and individual; National Dairy Judging, 53rd overall individual and silver award; Livestock Judging Second Place; Star Greenhand Award; Employment Skills Third Place individual; and Massachusetts SAE Dairy Production First place and 12th nationally, earning a silver medal. A four-year honor roll student, she is the treasurer of the Senior Class and a member of the National Honor Society. Lily plans to attend college and pursue a degree in animal science and to eventually run Mily Way Farms. She is committed to learning new technologies and strategies to bring back to the farm to increase efficiency. She has been accepted to Penn State and SUNY Cobleskill. She is waiting to hear from other universities before deciding.

BRISTOL PLYMOUTH REGIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Dayna Mbugua

Dayna Mbugua, the daughter of Bernard Kariuki and Cecilia Matubia of Taunton, is a community health student who has excelled in a rigorous academic course of study which has included AP, honors, and early college courses. Ranked 38th in a class of 307, with a weighted GPA of 4.1, she has maintained Honor Roll status since freshman year. Dayna is a multifaceted leader, serving as president of the National Honor Society where she was recently selected as a semi-finalist for the National Honor Society Scholarship. She is a Student Ambassador; a SkillsUSA state officer and chapter president; and member of the National Technical Honor Society and HOSA. Moreover, Dayna is the chairwoman of the Taunton Youth Commission and a Citizens-4-Citizens Peer Leader. She is a dedicated athlete, serving as captain of the Bristol-Plymouth girls' varsity basketball team and excelling on the track and field team. Dayna is actively involved in SADD and serves her community through various volunteer opportunities, including the weekly teaching of Bible Study. Employed as a nursing assistant at Life Care Center of Raynham through the co-operative education placement program, she holds many certifications. She is in the process of deciding which college/university to attend in the fall. Dayna plans to pursue a major in biology in a pre-med track. She aspires to become a cardiac anesthesiologist.

CAMBRIDGE RINDGE & LATIN SCHOOL - RINDGE SCHOOL OF TECHNICAL ARTS

Grant Kaufmann

Grant Kaufmann, the son of Jake and Katherine Kaufmann, is a senior in the Rindge School of Technical Arts engineering program at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. An AP Scholar Award Winner with Distinction, he has earned a Seal of Biliteracy. Fluent in Spanish, he has taken dual enrollment classes at Harvard Extension School and Bunker Hill Community College. Grant serves as a teacher's assistant in his engineering class. He is captain of Mechanics on the US First Team, and is a Kieve Tripper, which is an outdoor hiking and tripping education program. An entrepreneur, he ran an iPhone repair business at school and online, refurbishing broken iPhones. Grant has been accepted into the Harvard Class of 2028; he is waiting to hear from MIT. He plans to pursue a NROTC scholarship. Grant will concentrate on either electrical or mechanical engineering. After earning a bachelor's degree, he plans on commissioning in the Navy and ultimately serving on a nuclear submarine. Upon discharge from the Navy, Grant plans to pursue a master's degree in engineering before going into industry.

CAPE COD REGIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Alana Thompson

Alana Thompson, the daughter of Sandra and Ralph Thompson of Yarmouth, is an outstanding student in the culinary arts program at Cape Cod Regional Technical High School. Born in Kenya, she moved to the United States when she was 12 years old. Alana has excelled in her technical program and is also an exceptional academic student. She has enrolled in the most rigorous courses offered, earning a 4.1 GPA. She is a high honor recipient and a National Technical Honor Society member. One of the first students in her class to secure a co-operative education placement position, Alana is employed at the Cuvée Restaurant at the Chatham Inn, working as assistant to the pastry chef. Her extracurricular activities include volleyball, tennis, ping pong club, and SkillsUSA. She has been instrumental in catering for large school events and has represented the culinary program in the MRE cooking competition. After graduation, Alana plans to attend Johnson & Wales University to pursue a career in baking and pastry arts.

CHICOPEE COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL

Joshua Perry

Joshua Perry, the son of Cayle Birriel, is a senior in the information support services & networking program. An outstanding student, he has demonstrated a passion for learning and possesses a strong work ethic. Ranked 11th in his class with a GPA of 99.8, his instructors note that "he is a highly intelligent and detail-oriented student who exhibits excellent critical thinking skills." Dedicated to academic achievement, Josh has consistently maintained high honors for four years. Last year, he competed at the district level in the Information Technology Services competition in SkillsUSA where he earned a gold medal. He plans to compete again this year. In addition, he earned his Network Plus certification at the end of his junior year, which is the first time a junior has taken and passed this highly competitive exam. This certification is the equivalent of a two-year degree in Information Technology. He has utilized the Cisco college-level curriculum and has completed each year with a grade of 4.0. Joshua is currently earning college credit for a course in hardware maintenance at Elms College. He plans to pursue a degree in cybersecurity. Joshua has been accepted at Rochester Institute of Technology and will major in networking cyber security.

DIGHTON-REHOBOTH REGIONAL VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Dennis Correia

Dennis Correia is the son of Tara and Dennis Correia. An exceptional student in the marketing program, he has produced high quality logos, posters, and color coordinated graphic designs that are being used by the various schools in the district, advertising Dighton Rehoboth's seven CTE programs. Dennis developed the logo for the school store and has been instrumental in producing banners utilizing the newest wide-format printer. In addition to leadership in marketing, he exhibits leadership qualities on the athletic fields where he is a two-sport athlete competing in football and basketball. A member of DECA, he has demonstrated professionalism in his customer-client relationships. Dennis is employed at his family's tattoo business and has a part-time job working with younger students as a coach and event coordinator at Teamworks, a local recreation and party center. After graduation, he hopes to pursue a career in real estate.

DIMAN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Elizabeth Kinnane

Elizabeth Kinnane, the daughter of John and Mary Kinnane of Fall River, is ranked second in her class at Diman Regional. She is an advanced manufacturing student who is employed at Five Star Companies as a CNC machinist. She is completing AP, honors, and dual enrollment courses, earning high honors and a 4.0 GPA. A two-year soccer captain, and a three-year MVP and MAC All-Star, Elizabeth received the Offensive Player of the Year Award. A two-year basketball captain, MAC All-Star, and Sportsmanship Award recipient, she is currently co-captain of the tennis team, having received the Coach's and Sportsmanship Awards. Placing second in the Automated Manufacturing Team SkillsUSA state competition, Elizabeth is also a Diman Student Ambassador, member of DECA, and member of the National Technical Honor Society. She is the National Honor Society secretary and Student Government president. Her community involvement includes volunteering at the local health department, the sailing program, and the YMCA. Following graduation, Elizabeth will pursue a degree in marine engineering. She has been accepted to the University of Rhode Island, and the Massachusetts and SUNY Maritime Academies. She awaits a decision from the United States Coast Guard Academy.

B.M.C. DURFEE HIGH SCHOOL

Eshal Zahra

Eshal Zahra, the daughter of Sadia Bano, epitomizes excellence at Durfee High School. A culinary arts student, Eshal arrived from Pakistan in 2018. With a GPA of 4.5 and perfect attendance, she excels academically. Her participation in SkillsUSA underscores her commitment to vocational education. Her leadership in the Girls in Trade Leadership Council and the CTE Director Student Council highlights her advocacy for women in non-traditional fields. Eshal is very involved in community service. Her internships at the mayor's office and with State Representative Carole Fiola showcase her civic engagement, while her involvement in the African Teaching Foundation highlights her global citizenship. Additionally, her participation in organizations like the People of Color Unity Club reflects her dedication to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion. Affectionately referred to as the unofficial "mayor" of Durfee High School, Eshal's popularity, influence, and positive impact on the school are widely recognized. The recipient of the Christian A. Herter Scholarship, Eshal will be able to bring her considerable monetary award to any college/university in the US. She is awaiting a decision from Georgetown University and several other prestigious universities. Eshal is planning to major in finance and minor in international relations.

ESSEX NORTH SHORE AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Rohan Plante

Rohan Plante, the son of Marc and Vidula Plante, is a dedicated student in Essex Tech's information technology services program. His many accomplishments include creating QR codes for lunch seating, contact tracing during his freshman year, representing his class on the school's five-year planning committee, and most recently, collaborating with others to create an interactive curriculum map for the school website. A member of the National Technical Honor Society, Rohan was a member of the school's 2021 Codementum team, which placed third internationally. Within his community, he assisted in the construction of a new trail along the Ipswich River with an elevated walkway constructed from locally sourced lumber. For this service project, he earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Rohan has a passion for programming, a love of the outdoors, and a drive to keep learning. Rohan plans to major in computer science in college.

FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Ashley Bobala

Ashley Bobala is the daughter of Edward and Wendy Bobala of Millers Falls. This exceptional student is fully dual enrolled at Greenfield Community College and has earned a 4.4 GPA, which ranks her number one in the Senior Class. Ashley has majored in the animal science program with a concentration in veterinary science for the past four years. She was a softball player, Future Farmers of America competitor, and a SkillsUSA medalist. Ashley has a full-time, co-operative education placement schedule working at the Brookside Animal Hospital during her vocational week. In addition, she works an additional 16 hours per week as a dietician assistant at Charlene Manor Senior Home. She also volunteers at the local food pantry. Upon graduation, Ashley will enroll in the pre-veterinary program at the University of Massachusetts. She then plans to continue her education at Tuft's University in the doctorate degree program to become a licensed veterinarian.

GREATER LAWRENCE TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Ranyely Gil

Ranyely Gil, the daughter of Yesenia Rojas, is a biotechnology student at Greater Lawrence Tech. She is ranked fourth in her class with a 4.4 GPA and this year, she will complete nine college credits through concurrent enrollment classes with Middlesex Community College. Ranyely is employed through the co-operative education placement program at Straumann, where she works in quality assurance. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, Peer Mediators and Reggie Leaders. At SkillsUSA, Ranyely and her teammates placed first at the 2023 Massachusetts state competition in the Career Pathways Showcase Health Services category and seventh at the national competition. She was awarded the St. Anselm College Junior Book Award. Ranyely worked at Youth Development Organization (YDO) during the summer where she taught science to 3rd and 4th graders. She also served as the MC at the Merrimack Valley Branch of the NAACP's 40th annual MLK Jr. Commemorative Breakfast. Ranyely is undecided about which college/university she will attend. She plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in neuroscience.

GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mamady Camara

Mamady Camara, the son of Kabine and Saran Camara of Lowell, has excelled in the engineering technology program while maintaining a rigorous academic course load which includes dual enrollment and AP coursework. Currently ranked 18th in a class of 555 students with a GPA of 4.3, Mamady exemplifies the Greater Lowell Tech core values of Respect, Effort, Accountability, Commitment and Honesty (REACH). He is a member of SkillsUSA and is the 2023 national gold medalist in Principles of Engineering Technology. Mamady has earned numerous awards including the SkillsUSA State Leader Award, Massachusetts Student Achievement Award, Coaches Award in volleyball, and first place in the school Science Fair. He is an active member of the National Honor Society, a three-season athlete, and serves as a student ambassador and community volunteer. In addition, he works part-time and has achieved perfect attendance throughout his four years of high school. Following graduation, Mamady plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering with applications pending at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and Wentworth Institute of Technology.

GREATER NEW BEDFORD REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Annalise Applebee

Annalise Applebee, the daughter of Wilona and Tony Veiga, is an excellent student in the dental assisting program at Greater New Bedford. Having achieved nearly perfect attendance for four years, she currently serves as the president of the Student Council and the National Honor Society. Annalise is the head student leader of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Committee as well as the Christian Student Club. The chapter co-vice-president of SkillsUSA, she competed in 2023 at the National Models of Excellence competition achieving a gold medal and the Outstanding Chapter competition earning a silver medal. Active in GNBVT productions, she is the backstage crew manager. Annalise is a student leader with Rachel's Challenge, and she is the recipient of the BEAR Award for demonstrating core values. Enrolled in the co-operative education placement program, she is employed at South Coast Oral Surgery Associates in New Bedford. Annalise has been accepted at Liberty University and Gordon College. Her goal is to become an oral surgeon and partner with a non-profit to provide dental care to patients around the globe.

HOLYOKE HIGH SCHOOL – DEAN CAMPUS

Natalie Colon

Natalie Colon is the daughter of Jocelyn Nieves of Holyoke. An outstanding electrical student, she has consistently been praised by her technical instructors for her professionalism, reliability, and initiative as well as her commitment to excellence and willingness to go above and beyond expectations. Natalie's academic achievements are equally impressive. She has consistently maintained excellent grades throughout her high school years, demonstrating a deep understanding of her trade and actively engaging in academics. A member of the National Technical Honor Society, she has maintained High Honor Roll status for four years. As part of the co-operative education placement program, Natalie has been employed by the town of Amherst as an electrical apprentice since February 2023. Active in Girls in Trade events, she serves as a student ambassador. She plans to major in electrical engineering in college. Natalie is currently awaiting acceptance at MIT, Duke, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

JOSEPH P. KEEFE REGIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Felix Marshall

Felix Marshall, the son of Hilary Smiley and Nelson Marshall, is a resident of Framingham. He is an outstanding student who has excelled both academically and in the health careers program. His professionalism and dedication to the health field have been observed through his clinical rotations and acquisition of numerous certifications. Enrolled in a rigorous course of study, he will be graduating as valedictorian of his class. Felix is the vice president of the SkillsUSA chapter, the treasurer of the National Honor Society, member of the Keefe Tech varsity cross country team, a student ambassador, and a peer mentor. Outside of school, Felix is an active member of the Boston Children's Hospital Teen Advisory Committee and a social justice advocate. Upon graduation, Felix will be attending the Patrick Leahy Honors College at the University of Vermont, pursuing a degree in psychology and neuroscience.

LEOMINSTER CENTER FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION INNOVATION

Marielle Howlett

Marielle Howlett, the daughter of proud parents Kenneth and Kristin Howlett, is an outstanding student in the honors electronics program at Leominster. She is the class valedictorian with a weighted average of 5.2. Vice president of the Senior Class, Marielle is captain of the volleyball team, vice president of SkillsUSA, a peer mediator for the Mayor's Youth Council and is a member of the Blue Devil Nation Cultural Committee. She has a deep interest in biology and engineering and would like to use her skills to make a difference in the lives of others. Upon graduation, Marielle will attend Harvard University where she will major in biology.

LOWER PIONEER VALLEY CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER

Raisa Sirbu

Raisa Sirbu, a cosmetology student at Lower Pioneer Valley, is the daughter of Ana Sirbu and resides in West Springfield. Her instructors state that Raisa possesses a work ethic and heightened level of maturity that are uncommon for someone her age. To her credit, she has accomplished many achievements since moving from her native country of Moldova eight years ago. One of those achievements is earning a GPA of 4.1 This SkillsUSA regional bronze medalist is also a member of the National Honor Society and is fluent in the languages of Romanian and Russian. Raisa volunteers at her church as a Sunday school teacher, and activity coordinator. She also serves as a translator at her high school and has earned both the Massachusetts State Seal of Bilingualism as well as the Global Seal of Bilingualism. Upon graduation, Raisa plans to attend Elizabeth Grady School for Esthetics and Massage Therapy. Following the completion of that program, she is considering majoring in either language or communications at a two- or four-year institution.

LYNN VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Esteban Cubides Ramirez

Esteban Cubides Ramirez, the son of Heidy Ramirez Vanegas, is a programming and web development student with an impressive 4.4 GPA. He has completed several early college and AP courses and ranks first in a class of over 260 students. Esteban is an integral part of the leadership team for the Lynn Tech chapter of SkillsUSA and has developed and maintains a chapter website to keep members and the community informed. He has earned national recognition in both the American Spirit and National Outstanding Model of Excellence competitions. Esteban won first place in the SureStart/MIT Hackathon with his cultural immigration app, helping immigrant students to integrate into American schools and society. This earned him a trip to The ASU+GSV Summit to showcase his app this spring. In his free time, he has also completed NASA's Applied Remote Sensing Training Program and has earned several computer programming language certifications. Esteban will be continuing his studies at MIT in the fall.

MADISON PARK TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Arlin Yanes

Arlin Yanes, the daughter of Rosendo and Marleni Yanes of East Boston, is an exceptional student in the dental assisting program. Throughout high school, she has earned many achievements and awards, such as High Honors, Cardinal of the Week, and Perfect Attendance. A member of the National Honor Society, Arlin has maintained a 4.4 GPA while being a full-time co-op student at East Boston Dental and Orthodontics. She has been enrolled in the RoxMAPP Early College Program since the spring of her sophomore year. She has earned 61 college credits from Bunker Hill Community College and has maintained a 3.8 GPA. In May, Arlin will earn an associate degree in liberal arts from Bunker Hill Community College. In June, she will receive her high school diploma and vocational certificate from Madison Park. After high school, Arlin plans to continue her studies and become a dental hygienist.

MCCANN TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Sara King

Sara King, the daughter of Gary and Rebecca King of Florida, MA, is a culinary arts major who ranks 14th in her class with a 4.2 GPA. Her rigorous course of study has included AP Calculus and Honors Forensics. Sara is a member of the National Honor Society and SkillsUSA, placing first in the Restaurant Service district competition and second in the state competition. In her spare time, she volunteers at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish as a kitchen worker. Sara is a student member of the Culinary Arts Advisory Board at McCann Technical School. As part of the co-operative education placement program, she is currently employed as a baker at Lickety Split on the Mass MoCA campus in North Adams and works for Cariddi Catering. After graduation, Sara plans to continue working in her trade. Her shop instructors describe Sara as a very dedicated and ambitious young woman who will succeed at anything she pursues.

MINUTEMAN HIGH SCHOOL

Laryssa Maia

Laryssa Maia, the daughter of Cristina Costa and Adilsson Soares of Belmont, excels as a member of the culinary arts program. She has earned a 4.3 weighted GPA and secured a position in the top 10% of her graduating class while enrolled in numerous AP and honors level courses. In the culinary arts program, Laryssa has distinguished herself as a top vocational student and served as a student member on the Culinary Arts Advisory Board. Currently participating in the co-operative education placement program at Pine Brook Country Club in Weston, she collaborates in the kitchen with another advisory board member, gaining new skills and sharing insights into her culinary education. Laryssa serves as a student ambassador, was a former member of the GSA, and participated in SkillsUSA. She has volunteered at the Bartle Green Run in Lexington, and contributed to Food Link, a local non-profit associated with the culinary arts program. In the community, she has actively participated in her church's youth group. She attributes her strong work ethic to her mother, an immigrant, who instilled the value of hard work. Laryssa has been accepted at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY.

MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Benjamin Schmidt

Benjamin Schmidt, the son of Frank and Katie Schmidt of Westminster, is an outstanding student at Monty Tech. In addition to excelling in his trade of cabinetmaking, Ben is a High Honor Roll and Principal's List student, taking honors, dual enrollment, and AP level classes. He has been involved in many extracurricular activities, including Monty Tech basketball, Chess Club, Math Club, Student Council, and the National Honor Society. During the summers, Ben has worked for the Monty Tech cabinetmaking program, and has also been participating in the co-operative education placement program since January 2023, when he began employment at Sterling Surfaces. Ben credits this experience for teaching him grit, work ethic, and teamwork. Giving back to the community, Ben has participated in church community service events, as well as volunteer events at Sholan Farms. Following graduation, Ben will attend Mount Wachusett Community College while continuing to pursue his trade.

NASHOBA VALLEY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Connor McCall

Connor McCall, the son of Lisa and Steven McCall of Pepperell, is an exceptional student in the TV/media production & theatre arts program. He is ranked in the top five of his class and is described as a distinguished young man in all aspects of his life. Connor has achieved excellence in AP and honors level courses in his academic classes. In his technical area, he has excelled at acting, directing, film making, audio/video editing and as the lead actor in several Viking Theatre Company productions. Connor participates in an impressive number of extracurricular activities at Nashoba Valley Tech including the National Honor Society, the National Technical Honor Society, and SkillsUSA where he earned a national silver medal for Audio/Radio Production. A varsity basketball captain and League All-Star, he has been the recipient of the Nashoba Tech Athletics MVP Award. He volunteers outside of the school as an altar server and a performer in the youth and adult choirs at his church. Connor plans to major in media arts production and one day hopes to pursue a career in film editing. After graduation, he will continue his studies at Emerson College.

NEWTON NORTH HIGH SCHOOL – NEWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Maya Sinay

Maya Sinay, the daughter of Asaf Sinay, is an outstanding student who is enrolled in AP and honors courses and is fluent in English, Hebrew, and Spanish. President of her class both freshman and sophomore years, Maya has earned the seal of Civic Action, is a candidate for the seal of Social Justice, and is a two-time recipient of President Biden's Gold Volunteer Service Award. She is a leader in Tzofim, a national organization offering Israel Scout programs. Maya has been a voice for many in the school and community encouraging them to speak up, educate, and unite against hate and violence. She has united a diverse group of students who are creating a window display highlighting positive images and words of Jewish people, educating on the Holocaust, and the impact of hate symbols. Her teachers state that, "Maya has an unyielding tenacity and drive to take action on what she believes in and to make a positive impact". She has received a PINE Award for screen printing and calendars. Maya plans to study communications and marketing at Reichman University, Herzliya, Israel.

NORFOLK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL

Madelyn Germain

Madelyn Germain, the daughter of John and Cindy Germain of Uxbridge, is an environmental science major. She has been a member and two-year captain of the cross-country team. Madelyn has earned the distinction of being the most accomplished cross-country runner in the history of the program and was named The Boston Globe's Division 3 Player of the Year. She is active in FFA. In environmental science and agricultural sales, she has competed at the state and national levels. Madelyn has donated her time to the Aggie Abundance Garden during the summer and is actively involved in the school's Beekeeping Club and 4H Club. She serves as a volunteer at Farmstead Foundation. Notably, she has organized the Got Sneakers community fundraiser. Madelyn is a member of the National Honor Society and holds the top GPA in her class. She has also been an active member of the Aggie Times for four years and has been providing the Environmental Awareness segment in each weekly column for the past three years. She will be continuing her education at Western Colorado University where she will be running Division 2 cross-country. Western Colorado University has awarded Madelyn an academic and athletic scholarship for her many accomplishments in high school.

NORTHEAST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

Illiana Ramos Reyes

Illiana Ramos Reyes, the daughter of Nestor Ramos and Libeth Reyes of Revere, is a member of the business technology career program at Northeast Metro. Currently ranked fifth in the Class of 2024, she has taken a very rigorous academic program since freshman year. She is currently enrolled in four AP courses and completed two AP courses as a junior. Illiana is a member of both the National Honor Society and the National Technical Honor Society. She played on the varsity soccer team and is a top runner on the indoor and outdoor track teams. She is a member of SADDD and serves as a peer mentor. She is the founding co-president of Northeast's DECA chapter, competing at the international competition in Orlando last April. This year, Illiana has been working tirelessly at building a relationship with the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce. It is her hope that the existing Latinx business community in Chelsea can mentor and empower students at Northeast Metro. At this time, Illiana is considering her options for college. She plans to major in political science and minor in business. After college, she hopes to pursue a career as a corporate attorney.

OLD COLONY REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Thomas Graber

Thomas J. "TJ" Graber is the son of Laura and Steven Graber and resides in Lakeville. He is a talented, exceptional student who is ranked number one in the Class of 2024. TJ is a member of the computer science vocational-technical program and is enrolled in all AP and honors courses. He gives back to the school by offering his strong academic skills to struggling students as a math tutor and volunteering his time at many school events. His AP instructor reports, "TJ is an exemplary student, with a thirst for knowledge, and is consistently striving for excellence". He balances his studies with his membership in the National Honor Society, Student Advisory Program Committee, SkillsUSA, and as a captain of the cross-country team. He has been honored by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS) with its Certificate of Excellence Award. After graduation, TJ will attend UMass Dartmouth to pursue a computer science-software engineering degree and has been accepted into the Honors College.

PATHFINDER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Kailee A. McManaman

Kailee A. McManaman, the daughter of Curtis and Nina McManaman of Warren, is an exceptional health assisting student who consistently produces superior work and embodies all that Pathfinder Tech represents. She is a valedictorian of the Class of 2024 with a 4.3 GPA and has received a multitude of awards for excellence in both academics and her technical program. She has competed in SkillsUSA where she placed at the gold level at the state competitions in the Health Knowledge Bowl. Kailee is a two-year member of the National Technical Honor Society and became a certified nurse's aide during her junior year. Her additional credentials include Caring for People with Alzheimer's/Dementia as well as AHA Basic Life Support, CPR and AED. Kailee is a member of the Student Council, secretary of the Student Government, a member of the Prom Committee and the Drama Club, where she is both the director and the writer of an original production which will be performed this spring. Kailee plans to continue her education in the field of health. At this time, she is undecided about which post-secondary institution she will attend.

PEABODY VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

Clara Oliveira

Clara Oliveira is an exemplary student in the early childhood education technical program at Peabody Veterans Memorial High School. The daughter of Sandra and Maxwell Oliveira, Clara has an unwavering commitment and passion for the field of early childhood education. She is completing her externship in two, first-grade classrooms at a local elementary school where she applies innovative teaching methods, tailoring strategies to meet diverse student needs, and maintaining fluency in Portuguese to connect with all students. Clara volunteers her time by staying for dismissal every day and assisting with classroom duties well after the school day is over. She is also employed by For Kids Only where she continues to build connections with children in her care. Clara's leadership extends beyond the classroom; she is a member of DECA, the Helping Committee, and is a National Technical Honor Society officer. Clara has committed to Endicott College and plans to major in elementary education.

PLYMOUTH SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

Rylee Kane

Rylee Kane, the daughter of Timothy and Amy Kane, is a marketing education student at Plymouth South High School. She has been a member of DECA for the past three years, serving as president this year. She has attended and competed in district, state, and international competitions and conferences, as well as the state level leadership conferences. She has served as the project manager of the fundraising event, Lights of Hope, which raises money for Beth Israel Deaconess Cancer Center. Rylee has been elected president of her class for the past two years, and vice-president the year prior. She has also managed the school's Instagram account for the past two years, sharing school wide information with all students and parents. Rylee was inducted into the National Honor Society as a junior and became the secretary soon after. She plays lacrosse and volleyball. After high school, Rylee plans to attend a four-year university and earn a degree in business.

ROGER L. PUTNAM VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL ACADEMY

Alondra Nieves Rivera

Alondra Nieves Rivera, the daughter of Migmara Rivera and Reinaldo Nieves, moved to Springfield from Puerto Rico at the age of 11 with no English skills. At age 12, she became bilingual and has been awarded the Seal of Bilinguality. A business technology student, she has become a professionally certified Microsoft Specialist as well as becoming Professional Communication Skills for Business certified. She is an active participant on the Business Technology Advisory Committee. In 2023, Alondra was voted by her peers in SkillsUSA to represent Massachusetts as the State Western Region Vice President. She has been named as a Hampden County District Attorney Youth Advisory Board Leader, been recognized by Junior Achievement of Western Mass as an 18 under 18 Award winner and has been named as a Massachusetts Statesmen Award winner. Alondra has been very active in community service, volunteering with the Salvation Army, serving as a participant in the Mass Mutual Big Brother Big Sister mentor program, as a volunteer for the Open Pantry Mayflower Marathon and as a Be A Friend Ambassador. She has maintained a 3.9 GPA while attending Springfield Technical Community College as a dual enrollment student and has achieved honor roll status every quarter of her high school career. Alondra hopes to attend the American University in Washington, DC and major in international relations.

QUINCY HIGH SCHOOL

Kimi Vallee

Kimi Vallee, the daughter of Caroline Lepechon-Vallee and Sebastien Vallee, has excelled in the fashion technology program at Quincy High School. She has taken full advantage of everything a comprehensive high school has to offer: college bound academics, technical competency attainment, extracurricular activities, and community service. Ranking 22nd in the Senior Class, her accomplishments include a GPA of 4.6 and Grade Average of 99% in her technical program. Her leadership within the Quincy High School community and her participation in New England's 9th Annual Fashion Week, Downtown Crossing Open Runway for Boston Fashion Week, Quincy High School's Annual Fashion Show, and participation in Giving the Glam have not gone unnoticed. She was awarded the Massachusetts State Seal of Bilerica for French. Kimi also speaks Italian. Her credentials include a Certification of Proficiency in Sewing and Fashion Design, and a certification for completing Portfolio et Univers Créatif course from the Institut Français de la Mode. Kimi plans to attend L'Institut Français de la Mode (the French Institute of Fashion) in Paris, France.

SALEM HIGH SCHOOL

Laila McClain

Laila McClain, the daughter of Lester McClain, is considered an invaluable member of the medical assisting program, where she demonstrates a remarkable standard of excellence. With a 3.7 GPA and near-perfect attendance, her commitment to her education is unwavering. Laila's influence extends throughout the school community where she serves as a mentor, an essential member of the volleyball and Unified Sports teams, and a yearbook editor. She has also served as a teacher's assistant. Additionally, Laila organized and managed the successful Blood Drive promotion. She has earned certifications in OSHA 10 and Heartsaver CPR/first aid, emphasizing her commitment to safety. Laila completed two semesters at Harvard Med Science during 2023, showcasing her dedication to academic excellence. Scheduled to participate in the co-operative education placement program in the spring, she is preparing for the Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA) exam in May. Laila is deciding among the five universities where she has been accepted.

SHAWSHEEN VALLEY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Sarah Johansen

Sarah Johansen, the daughter of John Johansen and Shannan Blanquera of Billerica, is a talented student in the engineering technology program at Shawsheen Tech. She participates in the co-operative education placement program working for Diversified Technologies, Inc. in Bedford. Sarah holds a 3.9 GPA and is ranked third in her class. She was the recipient of the Brown University Book Award for her excellent verbal and written communication skills and is a nominee for U.S. Presidential Scholar. Sarah has volunteered hundreds of hours for the school and the community. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Math Club, Student Advisory (vice president freshman and sophomore years), and an elected member of the Student Cabinet. She is secretary of the National Technical Honor Society, student delegate to the School Committee, president of the Teen Dating Violence Awareness Club, co-captain of the Orientation Leader Program, co-captain of the varsity tennis team, a swim instructor at the community pool, and a cashier at Market Basket. Sarah will attend Framingham State University to pursue a career as a math teacher.

SILVER LAKE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Erin Flaherty

Erin Flaherty, a resident of Kingston and daughter of Elaine and Scott Flaherty, is an early education student. She has earned the distinction of perfect attendance and has demonstrated a commitment to both her technical major as well as her academic classes. She maintains a GPA of over 4.2 and has been inducted into the National Honor Society. Erin is a three-season athlete serving as a captain for the cross-country and track teams. She is an active leader in the Silver Lake school community through participation in SkillsUSA, Best Buddies, Youth Advisory Council, Red Cross Club, and serving as a Student Council delegate. Outside of school, Erin works as a nanny and teaches CCD at St. Joseph's in Kingston. Her kindness has been noted because of the charity work she does each year for Boston Children's Hospital. Through her experiences in the early education program, Erin has developed a passion for working with children and plans to pursue the field of pediatrics next year at The College of the Holy Cross in Worcester.

SMITH VOCATIONAL AND AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL

Aaron Fein

Aaron Fein, the son of Liv Fein, resides in Florence, MA. Ranked first in his class, he has earned a 4.01 GPA while enrolled in AP classes. Aaron has proven to be a leader in the culinary arts program earning Prostart 1 and Prostart 2 certifications, multiple Servsafe certifications, and the Choking Awareness certification. He has competed in SkillsUSA for the past three years and has been involved in the Junior Chefs for four years. He is captain of the cross-country team, a participant on the wrestling team and is a member of the Music Club. Aaron has a strong work ethic and has been employed at a local restaurant for the past three years where he has held multiple kitchen positions. He finds kitchen line-work exhilarating and enjoys the artistic freedom of baking. In his spare time, he enjoys rock climbing, creating culinary dishes at home, and travelling. Upon graduation, Aaron plans to work in the culinary arts field.

SOMERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Yuvica Sharma

Yuvica Sharma, the daughter of Naresh Sharma, is an outstanding student in the health careers program who consistently demonstrates an unparalleled work ethic. According to her instructors, her commitment to excellence is evident in every task she undertakes. She consistently exhibits a strong sense of responsibility and a genuine desire to excel. Active in SkillsUSA, National Honor Society, and Best Buddies, she serves as the team manager of the Somerville High School girls' basketball team. One of Yuvica's most remarkable attributes is her unwavering passion for the health care industry. She is continuously looking to expand her understanding and knowledge in anything medical related. She is employed at CVS as part of the co-operative education placement program. She also works as a restaurant manager three days a week to help provide for her family. She is looking forward to continuing to volunteer at Cambridge Health Alliance during the upcoming summer. Yuvica plans to attend Tufts University.

SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Xa’Nah Greene

Xa’Nah Greene, the daughter of Barry Greene, has achieved many accomplishments at Southeastern Regional. They have included Excalibird App Development, developing curriculum for teacher trainings in E-HallPass, competing in the 11th Annual Independent Research Fair, replacing servers within the school, and helping in the development of the e-Sports team including choosing equipment and rigging system. Xa’Nah has achieved high academic honors throughout high school and holds certifications in OSHA-10, Linked-In Python, TestOut IT Fundamentals Pro, TestOut PC Pro, and TestOut Certified Ethical Hacker. In her free time, she practices JAVA coding skills. Xa’Nah has spent time transcribing historical documents for the Smithsonian Institute, volunteering for Cradles to Crayons, overseeing the freshman exploratory within her shop program, and participating in Open House in her junior and senior years. Xa’Nah plans to attend college and pursue a bachelor’s degree in computer science. She wants to become either an archivist, or a computer scientist.

SOUTH SHORE VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Kaylin Hicks

South Shore Technical High School is pleased to announce manufacturing engineering technologies student, Kaylin Hicks, as its Outstanding Vocational Student for 2024. The daughter of Kimberly Neveu, she resides in Abington. Kaylin is an excellent student with a GPA of 3.9. A three-sport athlete competing in volleyball, basketball, and lacrosse, she is a leader, serving as a Student Council officer, vice president of the National Honor Society, president of SADD, and president of the SkillsUSA Cabinet. Outside of school, Kaylin is an active member of BITK (Be In The Know) Youth Coalition that organizes student-led drug prevention initiatives in schools. Her teachers and coaches refer to Kaylin as independent, information-seeking, goal-oriented, passionate, and willing to stand up for what is right, even if she stands alone. She is awaiting acceptance at Mass Maritime Academy, UMass Boston, and URI among other institutions. She plans to study chemical engineering and molecular biology and to pursue a career supporting the healthcare industry.

TACONIC HIGH SCHOOL

Georgio Yared

Taconic High School is proud to announce that Georgio Yared is its recipient of the MAVA Outstanding Student Award for the class of 2024. Georgio joined the metal fabrication program in the 10th grade shortly after moving to the Berkshires to live with his Aunt Abby and Uncle Joseph. He decided to pursue metal fabrication because his grandfather was a welder in his home country of Lebanon. During his time in this program, Georgio completed both the OSHA 10-hour Certification for Construction and the Hot Work Certification. According to his instructors, he has demonstrated meticulous attention to detail with his fabrication skills and has emerged as a team leader who always follows tasks through to completion. Additionally, he has participated in the co-operative education placement program at Adams Plumbing and Heating in Adams, MA. Georgio will graduate having achieved high honor roll status throughout high school with a current GPA of 99.7. He is preparing for the North Pipe Welding competition this spring where he hopes to demonstrate his welding skills. Georgio will be attending Berkshire Community College in the fall and plans to apply to Westfield Flight Academy for the Career Pilot Program while attending Berkshire Community College. His goal is to become a pilot.

TANTASQUA REGIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Avianna Gregoire

Avianna Gregoire, the daughter of Matthew Gregoire, is an exceptional student in the health careers program at Tantasqua Regional Vocational High School. She is a high honors student who has earned a 4.4 GPA. Avianna is the secretary of the Student Council as well as a member of the National Honor Society. She has been a member of the Ski Club, the volleyball team, the tennis team, Project 351, and SkillsUSA. Avianna is passionate about the medical field. She has been accepted to the Physician’s Assistant programs at Springfield College and Wagner College.

TAUNTON HIGH SCHOOL

Leticia Lopes

Leticia Lopes, the daughter of Isrial Netto, is an exemplary student in the drafting/CAD program at Taunton High School. Ranked 26th in the Senior Class of 522 students, she has earned a GPA of 3.7. Leticia serves as a student representative to the C74 Drafting Advisory Board. In addition, she represents the Class of 2024 as a Student Advisory Committee member where she meets with the School Committee and the Superintendent, providing input regarding students’ concerns and reports to the full School Committee at bi-weekly meetings. A student ambassador, she provides tours to guests during the 8th grade orientation and parent/teacher conferences. Leticia has excelled on the National Spanish exams, having scored bronze and gold medals. She is also fluent in Portuguese. President of the Peer Assistance Leaders, she also serves as a CAD II tutor. Leticia is employed as a paid intern with Eurest USA, a business and industry company specializing in industry projects related to spatial design and concept inception. Leticia has been accepted to Roger Williams University, Wentworth Institute of Technology, and UMass Dartmouth. She plans to major in architecture.

TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Callie Schweitzer

Callie Schweitzer, daughter of Jeff and Dawn Schweitzer of Wrentham, is described by her instructors as an intelligent, detail-oriented, hardworking student with a great resume. She was a member of NASA HUNCH (High School Students United with NASA to Create Hardware) as a Design & Prototyping Finalist at the Johnson Space Center. Callie led a team that developed a Nanolab that could be used by researchers around the world to study insects on the International Space Station. She competes on the Robotics Team and is a SkillsUSA medalist in Architectural Drafting. She has received Engineering Technology Outstanding Student Awards, Academic Excellence Awards in math and science, is a National Honor Society member and a Mayflower League Volleyball All Star. She participates in the co-operative education placement program as an environmental engineer intern with Environmental Partners in Quincy. She also works part-time at CVS and Brand New Ballgame, all while being ranked second in her class with a GPA of 4.3 and enrolled in college electives at Husson University. Callie’s post-secondary plans are to study civil engineering at Wentworth Institute of Technology.

UPPER CAPE COD REGIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Gideon Drury

Gideon Drury, a resident of Falmouth, is the son of Jonathan and Jolie Drury. Gideon has excelled both academically and vocationally and is considered a leader at Upper Cape Tech. He has consistently earned high honor status and is a full-time, dual enrollment student at Cape Cod Community College. Captain and a four-year varsity soccer player, he has been recognized as MVP; and has been a three-time Mayflower All-Star. Gideon has been a Student Council representative and has the distinction of being a US Presidential Scholar nominee. He is employed by John Noonan Electric as part of the co-operative education placement program in addition to being employed at a local restaurant where he works as a host and a manager. Gideon has logged over 300 community service hours for Habitat for Humanity. An integral member of his church community, he most recently started the online ministry team giving members the option to participate in worship online. Gideon has been accepted at the Colorado School of Mines and Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He is awaiting acceptances at Virginia Tech, Georgia Tech, and MIT. He will pursue a degree in electrical or petroleum engineering.

WATERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

Laura Biagiotti

Laura Biagiotti, the daughter of Diane and Carl Biagiotti, is an engineering student who has been interested in sports her whole life. She has played varsity basketball and coached youth basketball all four years of high school. She has played AAU Club Basketball since 4th grade. Working with students with special needs is important to Laura and she mentors students in both Social Butterflies and Unified Basketball. She is a four-year member of the Leadership Advisory at Watertown High School helping to plan and lead school events. Laura received the CTE Engineering Technology Award in both 2022 and 2023. Her interest in engineering extends beyond school to personal projects including design of an outdoor basketball court with a pavilion and solar panels. She is employed at the Melting Pot Restaurant in Bedford and is timekeeper and scorekeeper for the town basketball and soccer leagues. Laura will attend Worcester Polytechnic Institute where she will major in engineering and play basketball.

WESTFIELD TECHNICAL ACADEMY

Aidan Layng

Aiden Layng, the son of Heather Dunfee and George Layng, is an outstanding construction technology student at Westfield Technical Academy. He participates in the co-operative education placement program where he is employed with Wright Architectural Millwork as a cabinet maker. Aidan is a frequent volunteer at the Westfield Soup Kitchen and has taken part in over 40 hours of community service during his senior year. He is a member of the Key Club and the National Technical Honor Society. Ranked third in his class with a GPA of 98, Aidan also participates in dual enrollment courses at Holyoke Community College. He is president of Westfield Technical Academy's SkillsUSA chapter and has achieved gold medal status in district and state competitions. Aidan earned sixth place at the national SkillsUSA competition in June 2023 for Cabinet Making. He plans to attend the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship in Maine, with a concentration in advanced cabinetry and furniture making. For his career, Aidan hopes to own a cabinet making business focusing on high-end residential cabinetry, millwork, and furniture.

WEYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

Shawna Reddick

Shawna Reddick, the daughter of Lisa Reddick, is an exemplary allied health student at Weymouth High School. She is in the process of obtaining certifications in EKG and Phlebotomy to add to her certifications in Nurse Assisting, Stop the Bleed, Alzheimer's, OSHA 10 and BLS. A member of the National Honor Society with a weighted 4.3 GPA and a class rank of 31 out of 410 students, she is in the top 8% of her class while enrolled in AP courses. Shawna is involved in SkillsUSA as a competitor as well as chapter secretary. She contributes many hours of community service with the National Honor Society, SkillsUSA, Tufts Library, as well as the Weymouth Farmers Market. Shawna also finds the time for two part-time jobs. She has committed to UMass Boston as a nursing major, receiving the Chancellor's Merit Scholarship.

WHITTIER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Nathaniel Shramko

Nathaniel Shramko, the son of Karen Shramko of Groveland, is described by the staff at Whittier Tech as a young man with tremendous promise and potential, an unmatched desire to learn, and an intellect that has impressed nearly every teacher with whom he has crossed paths. He has been enrolled in honors and early college coursework throughout his four years and has earned many accolades for his successes. Nathaniel is a member of the National Technical Honor Society, a National Merit Commended Scholar, and a 2024 Presidential Scholar Nominee. This past June, Nathaniel earned a gold medal in Electronics Technology at the 2023 SkillsUSA national competition in Atlanta, Ga, despite the airline losing his materials not once, but twice! In addition to participating in SkillsUSA, Nathaniel is a member of the Robotics Club and the Model UN Team. He has been employed as a wire bonding technician as part of the co-operative education placement program since April 2023. He is in the process of deciding which four-year college to attend to pursue a degree in electrical or microelectronic engineering.

WORCESTER TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mia Zoghbi

Mia Zoghbi, the daughter of Jad and Jeneanne Zoghbi, is a model student in the welding program at Worcester Tech. She is an honors, AP and early college student and has earned a 4.39 GPA. Mia serves her community through organizations such as the National Honor Society, St. Christopher's Church, Grace's Pantry, and Veterans Incorporated. She is part of the Alden Academy Student Leadership Team. Mia has played field hockey since she was six years old, starting in the Worcester Community and then joining the Worcester County United Club Team. At Worcester Tech, she played varsity field hockey for four years and was team captain during her junior and senior years. This year, she was recognized for her leadership and athletic qualities by receiving the Worcester Schools Athlete of the Week Award and the CAL League All Star Field Hockey Award. As a participant in the co-operative education placement program, she is employed at Curtis Industries where she manufactures various machine parts for vehicles and tractors. Mia will be attending Wentworth Institute of Technology, where she will major in construction management. Her goal is to manage her own business with a focus on welding.

Special thanks to our SkillsUSA Massachusetts Ushers:

Kayla Mathieu, National Officer
Southeastern RTHS

Kallie Allen, State President
Blackstone Valley RTHS

Emma Shaker, State Vice President
Diman RTHS

Thomas Marshall, State Secretary
Greater Lowell RTHS

Akram Mchiti, State Treasurer
Essex North Shore Agricultural and THS

Matthew Kelly, State Parliamentarian
Joseph P. Keefe RTS

Natalie DeLano, State Historian
Whittier RTHS

Jordan Melo, Eastern Region Vice President
Greater New Bedford RTHS



Congratulations John & Abigail Adams Scholars

Annalise Applebee	Laura Biagiotti
Ashley Bobala	Owen Collette
Natalie Colon	Dennis Correia
Esteban Cubides Ramirez	Daniel Daige
Gideon Drury	Aaron Fein
Lily Ferry	Madelyn Germain
Ranyely Gil	Thomas Graber
Xa'Nah Greene	Avianna Gregoire
Sarah Johansen	Kaylin Hicks
Marielle Howlett	Rylee Kane
Sean Kaswale	Grant Kaufmann
Sara King	Elizabeth Kinnane
Leticia Lopes	Laryssa Maia
Felix Marshall	Dayna Mbugua
Connor McCall	Kailee McManaman
Alondra Nieves Rivera	Saige O'Keefe
Clara Oliveira	Joshua Perry
Yuvica Sharma	Rohan Plante
Illiana Ramos Reyes	Shawna Reddick
Benjamin Schmidt	Callie Schweitzer
Nathaniel Shramko	Maya Sinay
Raisa Sirbu	Alana Thompson
Kimi Vallee	Arlin Yanes
Eshal Zahra	Mia Zoghbi

The John and Abigail Adams Scholarship is a merit-based program that provides tuition for up to eight semesters of undergraduate education at a Massachusetts state college or university. This scholarship is based on student scores on their 10th grade Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS).



2024 Award Recipient Statistics

Our 2024 Outstanding Vocational Technical Award recipients (54) represent a diverse group of individuals enrolled in an array of career vocational, technical, and agricultural programs. Female to male ratio is 36/18. Many recipients are enrolled in a non-traditional program.

Career Vocational and Technical Education Programs include:

Advanced Manufacturing (2)	Engineering Technology (6)
Bio Technology	Environmental Science
Business Technology (2)	Fashion Technology
Cabinet Making	Graphic Communications
Construction Technology (2)	Health Care Technology (8)
Cosmetology	Information Technology (3)
Culinary Arts (5)	Marketing (2)
Dental Assistant (2)	Metal Fabrication (2)
Drafting	Programming and Web Development (2)
Early Education & Care (2)	TV and Production
Electrical Technology (4)	Veterinary Services (2)
Electronics (2)	

History of Mechanics Hall

In the mid-19th century Worcester was developing into an industrial powerhouse. The arrival of the railroad provided the ability to transport materials and manufactured goods. As a result, Worcester grew rapidly into a manufacturing center. More and more people moved to the city as men filled a growing need for mechanics, craftsmen, and tradesmen. In turn, this emerging industrial workforce needed to acquire new technical skills, as well as learn how to navigate the economic and social changes impacting their lives.

In late 1841, the Worcester County Mechanics Association was formed. By February 1842, the Association had attracted 115 members and held it's first event, a well attended debate of four questions: Are the laboring classes in our community enjoying their full share of influence? Which is the most economical as an article of fuel, wood, or coal? Are morals in the country in a progressive state? Were our forefathers justified in their treatment of the (American) Indians?

A library of technical books was assembled and made available for young men starting out in the world of manufacturing, a significant benefit for those who did not have access to such resources in smaller communities. Classes on such topics as mechanical drawing, pipefitting, and blueprint reading were held, and in 1848 the Association organized its first Mechanics Fair, a comprehensive exhibition of machinery, manufactured goods, inventions, and other displays related to industrial innovation.

By 1854, the Association had outgrown its rented spaces and embarked on a plan to build its own hall on Main Street. This evening, you sit in Mechanics Hall, the Historical Hall on Main Street, to celebrate and honor the Outstanding Vocational Technical Students-of-the-Year!!!

