



More Info: Bridget Kelleher
Assistant Director of Marketing
bkelleher@TheBigE.com
(413) 205-5039

For Immediate Release – West Springfield, Mass.

October 10, 2024

EASTERN STATES EXPOSITION MASSACHUSETTS TRUSTEES GRANT SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS

The Eastern States Exposition (ESE) Trustees Scholarship is offered annually to students residing in New England who have participated in ESE’s youth programs. This year’s recipients from Massachusetts are Eva Hourigan, of Mansfield, Mass.; Emma Avery, of Westfield, Mass.; Samantha Baker, of South Deerfield, Mass.; and Colby Harrington, of West Springfield, Mass.

As a not-for-profit corporation committed to providing year-round opportunities for the development and promotion of agriculture, education and industry, it is a critical of ESE’s mission to support youth who are equally dedicated to academia, entrepreneurship and agriculture.

The Eastern Mass. recipient, Eva Hourigan, hails from Mansfield, Mass. She attended Mansfield High School and is now at the University of New Hampshire studying environmental science and sustainability, a love she found through 4-H. She is involved in numerous leadership programs, such as the National 4-H Congress and other widely recognized equine initiatives; has held multiple positions that further her career and still manages to maintain a vibrant social life.

Over the years, Hourigan has presented several times at The Big E. Her first was about the “Little Free Library” she constructed in 2017. Then her two first place entries in the photography contest were displayed in the New England Center in 2019, as well as a visual presentation to promote plastic waste awareness. In 2022, her presentation on native wildflowers and biodiversity was featured at the Fair. In 2023, her presentation on the liberty discipline, a debated manner of horse training, was highlighted, and she took home Reserve Champion Overall in Equitation in the ESE horse show.

Emma Avery, of Westfield, Mass., is the first of three Western Mass. recipients. She is a graduate of Westfield High School, and recently began her freshman year at Amherst College. She is

interested in history, law and library science and demonstrates extensive extracurricular involvement, academic excellence and work experience.

Previously, Avery participated in the Hampden County Youth & 4-H Fair, 4-H horse shows and Storowton Village's Early American Summer Days program, all at ESE. In the summer of 2021, Avery took part in Storowton Village's Teen Leadership Experience.

Avery is working toward a bachelor's degree in library science, a Master of Library Science and later a PhD so that she can be a research librarian and college history professor. She stated that she owes her love of history to her time at Storowton, and it has shaped her career goals.

Samantha Baker, of South Deerfield, Mass., is a graduate of Frontier Regional High School, and is presently enrolled in Springfield College's Physician Assistant (PA) Studies program. She plans to specialize in dermatology.

Baker is studious, ambitious and wholly occupied between her commitments to extracurricular activities, such as volleyball club; community service initiatives; and her career goals. Since 2021, she has entered and exhibited creative arts entries at the New England Center during The Big E. Her mediums include photography, clay, sewn items, handmade dolls and woodturning.

Colby Harrington, of West Springfield, Mass., is a graduate of West Springfield High School, and currently a freshman at Brandeis University studying data-based economics. As a child, Harrington volunteered his time at the West Springfield Lions Club during The Big E for four years. In middle school, he marched in The Big Parade. Above all, Harrington emphasizes the importance of supporting the local businesses that have established a presence at the Fair.

Harrington is an accomplished baseball player, a diligent student and a devoted community service volunteer. He is preparing himself well for a career in economics, but also hopes that his dreams of playing professional baseball will come to fruition.

Applicants must be accepted to, or currently attending, a two- or four-year accredited higher education institution, and candidates may be required to interview.

ESE extends congratulations to all scholarship recipients and wishes career success to all applicants.

- 30 -

The Big E is America's only multi-state fair celebrating the rich history, culture and traditions of the six New England states. As the principal event of Eastern States Exposition, The Big E has presented the finest livestock; agriculture; innovative commercial, industrial, and artistic developments; and the highest caliber of varied entertainment to the people of the northeastern

United States for over a century. The 17-day event has grown to become the largest fair in the Northeast.