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For Immediate Release – West Springfield, Mass.

October 11, 2024

EASTERN STATES EXPOSITION VERMONT 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 the state of Vermont were Zachary Johnson, of Tunbridge, Verm., and Liviya Russo, of Lunenburg, Verm.

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 piece of ESE's mission to support youth who are equally dedicated to academia and agriculture.

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

Johnson, of Tunbridge, Verm., is a student at Ohio State University, in Columbus, Ohio, where he studies animal science and agricultural business. He was an active participant in The Big E cattle shows for nearly 10 years, from 2014-2023. Last year, he was recognized as both the Top Overall Guernsey Showman and Reserve Champion Junior Guernsey. He aspires to manage a large dairy farm one day.

Beyond his commitment to agrarian values, Johnson also has an extensive history of student leadership committees; sports teams, such as baseball, basketball and cross country; multiple jobs; and he maintains outstanding academic scores.

Russo, of Lunenburg, Verm., attends the State University of New York (SUNY) College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill, N.Y. She is an accomplished student who balances two jobs while studying animal science and philosophy. Her career choice was heavily influenced by a childhood spent on a farm.

Russo has been showing heifers through Eastern States Exposition's 4-H programs for many years and is equally involved in cattle back home through the Lunenburg 4-H program and her high school's FFA chapter. Earlier this year, she was selected as the first National 4-H Livestock Ambassador for Verm.

ESE extends congratulations to both scholarship recipients and wishes career success to all applicants who have committed their efforts to preserving New England heritage and pursuing agrarian endeavors.

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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.