



PRESS RELEASE

**Three County Fair Awards \$4,000 to Class of 2023 Local
High School Graduates**

*Seven local high school seniors to receive college scholarships to support
their career plans in a variety of fields*

- Wednesday, May 31, 2023 -

Northampton, MA – In advance of high school graduation weekend, America's oldest on-going agricultural Fair, the Three County Fair, has announced this year's Class of 2023 scholarship award recipients.

Applicants are scored on academics, extra-curricular activities, application presentation, future study plans and involvement in agriculture, including the annual Labor Day weekend Fair. The Fair awarded its first scholarship in 1867.

"The Fair received a number of exemplary applications making the selection process very difficult. We are pleased to continue providing scholarship opportunities and wish the recipients the very best in their chosen fields of study." said Three County Fair President, Tom Smiarowski.

The Fair manages the prestigious Raymond & Josephine Duda Scholarship. The Duda Scholarship was established in 2014 by Raymond & Josephine Duda of Easthampton, who operated one of the area's largest dairy farms.

This year's \$1,000 Duda Scholarship winner is Suzanne van Geel of Hatfield. Suzanne is graduating from Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School in Northampton and will be attending Delaware Valley University in Pennsylvania pursuing an Equine Science/Management degree with plans for a career in horse breeding. Suzanne volunteers each Labor Day weekend in the Three County Fair's Baby Barnyard and has been active with Future Farmers of America, 4-H and work at Luther Belden Dairy Farm in Hatfield.

Six other area high school students were also selected to each receive a \$500 scholarship from the Three County Fair, including Avery Brooks of Westhampton, Liliana Pollard of Worthington, Nancy Mueller of Russell, Samantha Baker of South Deerfield, along with Kaitlyn Nowak and Matthew Brady both from Northampton.

Full list of 2023 scholarship recipients:

Student: Suzanne van Geel of Hatfield, MA
High School: Smith Vocational & Agricultural High School
Attending: Delaware Valley University
Major: Equine Science/Management
Award: \$1,000. - Raymond & Josephine Duda Scholarship

Student: Kaitlyn Nowak of Northampton, MA
High School: Northampton High School
Attending: Westfield State University
Major: Elementary Education
Award: \$500. - Three County Fair Scholarship

Student: Avery Brooks of Westhampton, MA
High School: The Williston Northampton School
Attending: University of Hartford
Major: Prosthetics & Orthotics
Award: \$500. - Three County Fair Scholarship

Student: Nancy Mueller of Russell, MA
High School: Gateway Regional High School
Attending: Elon University
Major: International Relations
Award: \$500. - Three County Fair Scholarship

Student: Liliana Pollard of Worthington, MA
High School: Smith Academy
Attending: Holyoke Community College
Major: Forest Ecosystem Science
Award: \$500. - Three County Fair Scholarship

Student: Matthew Brady of Northampton, MA
High School: Northampton High School
Attending: University of Wisconsin-Madison
Major: Horticulture
Award: \$500. - Three County Fair Scholarship

Student: Samantha Baker of South Deerfield, MA
High School: Frontier Regional High School
Attending: Springfield College
Major: Health Science
Award: \$500. - Three County Fair Scholarship

About the Hampshire, Franklin & Hampden County Agricultural Society:

Located in Northampton, Massachusetts and incorporated in 1818, the Hampshire, Franklin & Hampden County Agricultural Society promotes agriculture, agricultural education, agricultural science and sustainability for the region through exhibitions, displays, competitions and demonstrations and annually operates The Three County Fair, recognized by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture as the oldest on-going Fair in continuous operation in the U.S.A, with the first Three County Fair taking place, October 14-15, 1818 and every year since without interruption.

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