



2021 Scholarship Award Winners

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Andre Dean

BEF Anthony Pascal Family Scholarship

The Baseball Coach at BHS, Mike Policastro, writes the following about Andre Dean:

“Andre is a 3-year Varsity player for us at BHS and also a Captain of the baseball team. As a sophomore, Andre was thrust into our starting rotation due to an injury to a senior. He stepped in and did a great job for us as a sophomore on a team that won 20 games and went to the sectional state championship game two years ago. As a Senior this year, Andre was named as a captain; he is a two-sport athlete, as he was a two-year starter for the basketball team

as well and also a captain for them, too. Andre has represented Bloomfield High School with dignity and I am super proud of him for not only the team leader and role model that he has become, but also for the fine young man he turned out to be. Andre is having an outstanding season for us this year, as he is one of the best pitchers in Essex County this season, currently he has a record of 5-1 with 2.42 ERA. He has pitched 32 Innings, allowed 30 hits, 6 BB, 41 K and he also plays 3B/1B when he is not pitching. He is having an outstanding year at the plate as well going 15 for 43, while batting .349 with 2 Doubles, HR, and 5 RBI.

“He will be continuing his education and baseball career at New Jersey City University. He will get the opportunity to stay close to home and go to school where his parents will be able to see him play. I couldn't be happier for him.”

Andre's Head Basketball Coach, Mike Passero, offered these words about Andre:

“Andre has been a four-year player for our basketball program and a two-year varsity starter. A captain whose energy and effort is contagious, he's a true role model for all the younger players in our program. Andre also excels on the baseball diamond as a pitcher and plans on continuing to play for New Jersey City University, where he would also like to major in sports management.

About The BEF Anthony Pascal Family Scholarship

Funded in 2018, 2019 and 2020 by Robert Pascal and awarded to a graduating senior who exemplifies Tony Pascal, who was president of the Class of 1958 and quarterback for the football team. Funded in 2021 by the BEF in recognition of Robert Pascal's generosity and in his memory as well as that of Anthony Pascal.



Bryant Ayala

Class of 1965 Scholarship

Bryant is interested in software engineering or possibly psychology, with eyes set on becoming an occupational therapist. He is well versed in computers and possesses the necessary skills, such as patience and warmth of personality, to serve as an occupational therapist.

Bryant was thrilled at the large selection of clubs and extracurricular activities that BHS offered. As such, he chose the school's newspaper and the yearbook, where he met numerous

new students, each with their own stories to tell. Additionally, he served as a Peer Leader to freshmen, which, in his words, provided "an amazing experience to mentor the future of this community and lead them in the right direction." His motto is to always lend a helping hand and to include himself in anything out of his comfort zone, such as the battle of the classes, his class's car wash, and the school's tricky tray fundraisers.

Especially proud of his humble background and being raised in an immigrant family of hard-working parents, Bryant has learned by example that strong effort reaps rewards. In addition to the many activities that he participated in and his heavy schoolwork load, he spent a lot of his time working with his Dad after school and on Saturdays as a carpenter. He not only learned the trade but life lessons from his Dad such as responsibility and pride in workmanship, which saw him mature faster than most of his peers. He is proud of his Hispanic heritage and speaks fluent Spanish and he has shared that skill, translating whenever needed and to help others. Bryant will attend Pace University in the fall.

About The Class of '65 Scholarship:

The BHS Class of 1965 has established a scholarship to support the educational goals of the graduating students at Bloomfield High School. We realize that education is the great equalizer and that given fair opportunity and access to postsecondary education, including college, vocational, and trade schools, the future will be brighter for BHS alumni.



Ella Hamberlin

Class of 1965 Scholarship

Since the 5th grade, Ella has wanted to pursue a career in the sciences and in particular, the STEM field. She is deeply invested in her academics and personal development and has been a member of the Honors programs since middle school. While enrolled in rigorous classes, her teachers pushed her to be the best she could be. For Ella, that would be achieving High Honors each marking period for her entire high school experience and graduating with honors in June, having achieved a 4.2 GOA and a rank of 23 out of 443.

Described as bright, personable and studious, Ella will make a wonderful addition to any college campus. She is high performing and as such, not afraid to put the extra work in to understand difficult concepts and to keep her high grades.

Outside of school Ella is involved as a Soccer player and has run track for her 4 years at BHS. She has also been a four-year member of the Key Club and is the Treasurer of the National Honor Society. These extracurricular activities will undoubtedly make her an excellent student in her new life as a college student. She has been accepted at Seton Hall University, Rutgers University, Montclair State University, University of Connecticut, and Penn State University.

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Emily Baca

Leroy Straight and Dorothy Jewkes Straight Scholarship

Class of '65 Scholarship

GPA: 4.493

Rank: 8 out of 443

Honors classes: English 1 and 2, Geometry, Biology, World History, Algebra, Chemistry, Spanish 2, Pre Calculus, Spanish 3 and 4

AP Classes: US History 1, English 3, Physics, US History 2, Biology, Calculus, English 4

Emily's scholarship essay reveals a love of being with children and her capacity for kindness. Here, Emily writes:

She says there's a unicorn dancing in the clouds. I squint my eyes, looking further into the clusters of sporadically placed puffs of white. Where is it? I glance toward the girl with choppy, brown hair lying next to me in the grass, her vibrant pink soccer jersey smeared with splotches of dirt. Ada is a pop of color. She continues to ecstatically point to the sky as the soccer ball rolls away, and her father urges her to stand up. I smile and lightly take Ada's hand, nudging her to continue playing despite her mental disabilities. For six years, I have volunteered at a program called Hi-5 that teaches soccer and develops the social skills of children with special needs; I would soon become the high school coordinator and session leader in conjunction with my position as the high school girls varsity soccer captain for two years. At Hi-5, we created a community overflowing with bubbling personalities like Ada's and a place of security abounding with laughter. Here, we embrace our uniqueness. We emphasize our differences. And I always remember to search the sky for a hidden unicorn dancing amongst the swirling white clouds.

My lead coaching in the Bloomfield Soccer Club's Little Cleats soccer program for the past four years is also instrumental in depicting my joy that comes from being with children. I remember exclaiming, "You're stuck in the mud!" as I laughed heartily and lightly touched Luca's shoulder. He would then immediately freeze and proceed to open his mouth as wide as possible to scream in a high-pitched voice, "HELP!" Giggles would erupt from the other children as they would run frantically to unfreeze Luca by kicking the soccer ball underneath his legs. When the session would come to an end, the little cleats would sit on their soccer balls and listen as they heard me recap the skills they learned about moving the ball with speed or how to do an L-turn. And I always remember that Luca would fidget with the dandelions near him, pluck one out, and hand it to me with the biggest smile before snuggling into the arms of his mother.

Part of who I am comes from my leadership at Hi-5 and Little Cleats; I have learned the value of spreading kindness and showing compassion while also developing my interest in becoming a pediatrician. I am reminded of my childlike imagination and curiosity for exploration, of the gratitude I feel when helping others. I cherish these small moments of genuine, contagious happiness. I imagine Jace speeding through the wet dew of the grass like an accelerating rocket, kicking the soccer ball in the net, and cheering with vitality for his momentous achievement. I remember Jaden's grin from ear to ear, Sarah's love of fruit-flavored gummies. It is an irreplaceable comfort to have such places brimming with acceptance and care; It is something that I will always remember, and strive to share.

In addition to her warm personality, intelligence and strong communication skills, Emily is also highly motivated and enrolled in a vigorous combination of advanced placement, honors and college prep classes, where she earned above-average grades.

A natural athlete, Emily was selected as team captain of the BHS Girls Varsity Soccer Team, a position she flourished in for two years. Leading by example, she ran drills and practices, always encouraging her teammates to be their best, reminding them of their talents and keeping everyone positive. It was through soccer that she joined the Hi5 program and taught special needs children to play. Through this experience, Emily learned the values of compassion, generosity and kindness.

In what spare time she has, Emily enjoys drawing and painting and has exhibited her work, sharing her talents with others.

Emily will attend Rutgers Honors College in New Brunswick in the fall, where she will major in Humanities, Biomedical Engineering or Biology, and pursue a career as a pediatrician or a nurse.

About The Class of '65 Scholarship:

Funded by Kathleen Gosselink of the BHS Class of 1965 in 2021, this award has established to support the educational goals of the graduating students at Bloomfield High School. We realize that education is the great equalizer and that given fair opportunity and access to postsecondary education, including college, vocational, and trade schools, the future will be brighter for BHS alumni. Paid to awardee in 1 installment, before the fall semester.

About The Dorothy Jewkes Straight and Leroy Straight Scholarship:

This award was created by BHS Class of 1965 graduate, Candace Straight, in memory and in honor of her mother, Dorothy Jewkes Straight, '39 and her father, Leroy Straight, '40. Paid to awardee in 4 installments: one before the fall semester of each of the four years of college.



Casey Dolan

Dr. Gloria J. (Zawicki) Dyer Scholarship in the Sciences and The Theodore Jasieniecki Scholarship

Casey's scholarship essay reveals a love of science and how it can be used to explain the world. Here, Casey writes:

Dr. Dyer ascended to high levels of scientific expertise despite how the odds were against her because of her womanhood. She was discouraged from following the path of the sciences, but her passion and love for it motivated her to work hard and achieve great success. In my chemistry class my sophomore year, I developed a passion for science much like Dr. Dyer had. In that class, I learned how to predict the products of chemical reactions, figure out the number of atoms contained in a balloon, and many other fascinating things. I fell in love with each topic we covered. My passion for science completely took hold in my physics class the following year. Mundane occurrences I had witnessed my whole life, like a book falling off a desk, now had tangible theories and numbers I could interact with. After taking these classes and falling in love with how science can be used to explain the world, I want more than anything to pursue a career in engineering.

Dr. Dyer spent her life immersed in the sciences, despite how she was discouraged from following that path. Her dedication and perseverance to forging such a path in her time is a testament to her love for science and desire to make it more accessible to all. Although it has been over 70 years since Dr. Dyer began her journey in scientific higher education, women are still discouraged from achieving high level degrees in science fields in similar ways today. By following a career in engineering, I expect to be one of the few women in a class. However, I know that I will be able to persevere despite the discouragement because of my passion for science and knowing the stories of women like Dr. Dyer. Her career is an inspiration to me, and she is proof that women can and will excel in the sciences no matter what. I am grateful that women like her were so determined to succeed in careers catered to men, because the doors they opened have only made it easier for future generations of women, like me, to enter such fields.

Casey Dolan aspires to be an engineer and has challenged herself with a rigorous combination of Honors and AP courses, being especially proud of her AP Physics and Calculus courses that reaffirm, for her, the ambition to become a student of engineering. These courses will prepare her for the demands of college-level coursework as well as the challenges that face many women in the STEM professions.

Casey is also a three-season athlete and has been captain of her soccer team and shows great leadership. She is also an important member of the basketball and track teams. Influenced to volunteer at Camp Fatima by her Dad's volunteer work there, Casey explained, "Camp Fatima is a place where campers flourish because they are in a place where they are understood." Sadly, due to the pandemic, Camp Fatima is currently closed.

Casey's steadfast work ethic, her passion for education, and her ability to achieve when she sets her sights on her goals will help her meet the challenges that lie ahead as she pursues her college degree. Casey was accepted to Villanova University.

About The Dr. Gloria Dyer Scholarship in Science:

Dr. Gloria J. (Zawicki) Dyer was born in Bloomfield and was a member of the BHS graduating class of 1947. Her family was of modest means and, while she excelled at science and all other academic subjects, she did not have the means to attend college. An anonymous benefactor made a gift to her that made college possible and she attended and graduated from Upsala College, all while working as a department store clerk to continue to make college possible. This was at a time when female students were largely discouraged from careers in the sciences. She later was awarded two Masters degrees from Columbia University in education and nutrition, and a Doctorate from the Rutgers University Graduate School of Education.

Dr. Dyer's career as an educator at the college level started with her instructing in biological sciences at the University of Connecticut. She went on for over 40 years as a Professor of Biology at Fairleigh Dickinson University, including time as the Biology Department Chair. She was a pioneer in offering college courses in environmental sciences and field work in the early 1970s. Throughout her college teaching career she mentored many young men and women, exhorting them to be the best that they could be. She never forgot her roots and how an anonymous person's kindness changed her life. This scholarship was established upon her death and her friends, family and former students all gave to the fund to make it possible.

About The Theodore Jasieniecki Scholarships:

The Theodore Jasieniecki Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a male and female varsity basketball player. Ted Jasieniecki was one of the best players in Bloomfield High School basketball history. Ted was an early member of Bloomfield High School's 1000-point club. He was an all-star baseball pitcher, a respected leader in the class of '67, and member of the National Honor Society, graduating in the top 5% of his class. Ted served as the Town Prosecutor for Bloomfield in the early '80s and remained an active member of the Bloomfield community as an attorney, as well as a member of the Lion's Club, until his untimely death at the age of 37.



Nabiha Tahsin

The Dr. Gloria (Zawicki) Dyer Scholarship in the Sciences

Nabiha enrolled in challenging College Preparatory, Advanced Placement and Honors courses throughout her high school years. She is an incredible student made up of noteworthy characteristics as evidenced by leadership roles within her classes and her desire to excel, which is never at the expense of others. To that end, she is always willing to help others who are experiencing difficulties and possesses a natural “helping” persona.

Her personal tragedies have also had a hand in shaping her personality. Her scholarship application letter is as follows:

The Dr. Gloria J. (Zawicki) Dyer Scholarship In The Sciences would be an honor to receive and a great headstart to my college experience as well as my nursing career. I am Nabiha Tahsin, a first-generation immigrant, a person who has tried very hard to obtain the best grades possible. I arrived in this country as a five-year-old with my family and their sole motivation was to offer better education opportunities for my brothers and me. However, our American dream was ripped apart when my father was diagnosed with stage three glioblastoma and passed away ten months after the diagnosis. My mother never worked in Bangladesh or America so she is not able to contribute funds. After years of night shifts and hard work, my older brother provided enough for the family to remain in this country. Nonetheless, he cannot offer any direct financial support for me. My father did not work enough to earn a pension and I do not have college savings account waiting for me after graduation. Thus, this scholarship would greatly support me in furthering my education.

As stated earlier, my family’s main incentive was to give us a better opportunity at higher education and exceptional jobs. I have strived to always do my best even when my personal life was full of hospital visits and chemotherapy. This thought process has shaped the student I am today; hence, I took honors and AP classes in high school, went for help any time I had trouble with classes, and kept my grades up. I am in the top five percent of my graduating class and I plan on continuing to have this attitude to increase my knowledge throughout college.

Moreover, I want to help people which is the main reason I want to become a nurse in the future. Throughout high school, I was a member of the National Honor Society, Red Cross, Key Club, Robotics Club, and Astronomy Club. Giving back to the community made me realize that every small act can make a big difference. Overall, I would feel honored to receive this scholarship and believe that I can make a positive impact with this financial boost.

A BHS Science Teacher who had Nabiha in class remarked that she is mature and responsible beyond her years. As early as freshman year, a family she knew asked her to travel with them to Boston over the winter break, to watch their two children, ages two and five. While most 14-year olds would relish the time to relax, sleep in and spend time socializing, Nabiha took the position and this family entrusted her with their children's care.

Nabiha hopes to become a nurse and the characteristics she possesses of academic prowess and a willingness to help others are most necessary when pursuing this career choice. They will surely be intrinsic to her success. She will be attending Rutgers School of Nursing in the fall.

About The Gloria (Zawicki) Dyer Scholarship In The Sciences:

Dr. Gloria J. (Zawicki) Dyer was born in Bloomfield and was a member of the BHS graduating class of 1947. Her family was of modest means and, while she excelled at science and all other academic subjects, she did not have the means to attend college. An anonymous benefactor made a gift to her that made college possible and she attended and graduated from Upsala College, all while working as a department store clerk to continue to make college possible. This was at a time when female students were largely discouraged from careers in the sciences. She later was awarded two Masters degrees from Columbia University in education and nutrition, and a Doctorate from the Rutgers University Graduate School of Education.

Dr. Dyer's career as an educator at the college level started with her instructing in biological sciences at the University of Connecticut. She went on for over 40 years as a Professor of Biology at Fairleigh Dickinson University, including time as the Biology Department Chair. She was a pioneer in offering college courses in environmental sciences and field work in the early 1970s. Throughout her college teaching career she mentored many young men and women, exhorting them to be the best that they could be. She never forgot her roots and how an anonymous person's kindness changed her life. This scholarship was established upon her death and her friends, family and former students all gave to the fund to make it possible.



Melina Hildalgo

F. James White “True Competitor” Memorial Scholarship

Melina tells us in her essay that being a true competitor means that on and off the court you are fighting hard to achieve your goals. To her, a true competitor knows how to use what they have learned on the court in their daily life.

From a young girl, Melina has had a dream to study medicine at top schools like Harvard, Yale, or Johns Hopkins universities. She was not deterred when others would try and temper her big dreams. She knew to achieve this dream she would need to be

among the top in her class, with an above-average GPA and extracurricular activities to her credit. She was not afraid to work hard on and off the court and the results are tremendous. Melina will graduate in the top 10 of her class of 443 and has achieved a 4.49 GPA. She has been accepted to Loyola University in Maryland and John Hopkins University, also in Maryland.

Letters of recommendation from her Teacher of French and her Basketball Coach reiterate the same themes of hard work, dedication, intelligence and leadership. They also point out qualities like a sense of humor and humility and a young person who is very willing to help others. While she carries heavy course loads and has lettered in four varsity sports, Melina still finds time to volunteer as a Coach in Pee Wee basketball through Bloomfield Recreation as well as participate in numerous clubs at the high school. Her basketball coach writes, “Melina has been an ideal role model for the underclassmen at Bloomfield High School. I am confident she will excel as a student and person at any academic institution in the future.”

Melina asserts that the lessons she learned being a part of her teams, such as perseverance and hard work, will always be inside of her and will continue to dictate her decisions in college and throughout her future career. These teams taught her how to be a “true competitor” and she is grateful to have been given the chance to learn what matters most to be a success in life.

About The F. James White “True Competitor” Memorial Scholarship:

The F. James White “True Competitor” Student-Athlete Scholarship is awarded annually to a male or female student-athlete. Mr. White graduated from BHS in 1954. He played basketball for legendary coach George Cella and was a standout track athlete. He went to Springfield College, majored in physical education and graduated with honors in 1958. He received his Master’s Degree from Columbia University. He taught in the Bloomfield school system for 41 years with all but two of his years spent at Bloomfield High School, retiring in 1999. In 33 years as head coach of boys’ soccer he won 2 state titles, leaving a legacy as one of the winningest coaches in NJ soccer history. He coached the Lady Bengals basketball team for 18 years, winning a state championship in 1989. In 2009, he gave a speech at the annual BEF dinner entitled “True Competitor” in which he extolled the virtues of competition, particularly that of a BHS athlete. He was proud to see his students and athletes continue their studies in college and very much valued the power of a college education to change their lives for the better. To that end, his children established the scholarship at his Celebration of Life ceremony in 2019, which was held where else but in the BHS gymnasium, his home away from home.



Alexander Soja

The Fred Celluro Memorial Scholarship Mark & Charlotte Greenstein Student Athlete Scholarship

Alexander has maintained an extraordinary grade average and has consistently displayed a natural sense of responsibility, an admirable priority of values, and the ability to persevere in the face of difficulties. One such difficulty was the loss of his father while he was in Middle School. Middle School can be a challenging time for any student, let alone one who has lost a parent. Yet,

throughout this heartbreaking period, Alex remained positive and never lost his upbeat attitude toward life. Lighting up the room with his smile, those who meet him for the first time are instantly drawn to his magnetic and kindhearted personality.

Looking for a sport that would challenge him and enable him to lift and gain muscle, Alex chose Wrestling in his freshman year. He admits that the next three winters were the most grueling in his life but they were also the proudest times of his life. Wrestling taught him to take responsibility for attending practices and make the right choices to better his abilities. And it paid off for him, yielding a varsity starter position in his freshmen year. Wrestling taught him how to balance schoolwork, a social life and a sport. This has instilled confidence in him that he feels he will take with him to be successful in his college career.

Described as kind, sincere, and humble with an inviting personality by his school counselor, Alexander is seen by many as a proven leader with an extraordinary future. Alexander is headed to the University of Maryland to study Criminology.

About The Mark & Charlotte Greenstein Student Athlete Award:

To recognize their parents' many years of giving back within the community, Louis and Neil Greenstein created this scholarship to recognize and support student athletes at Bloomfield High School as they endeavor to pursue a college education. The awards will be in the amount of \$500 for a male and female student. It will be awarded annually for the next five (5) years by the Bloomfield Educational Foundation.

About The Fred Celluro Memorial Scholarship

2021 is the first year of the Fred Celluro Memorial Scholarship as Fred recently passed away in 2019. Fred's family and close friends described him as an incredible friend and coach who left a lasting impact on every person who crossed his path. Fred loved to help everyone; he loved Bloomfield; and he loved sports. To honor his memory and continue his mission of promoting teamwork and leadership through sports, Fred's family and friends started this memorial scholarship.

Who is Fred Celluro?

Frederick ("Fred") Celluro graduated from Bloomfield High School in 1958, as a student-athlete who lettered in baseball, basketball, and football. As a life-long resident of Bloomfield, Fred had received numerous awards: Local BPA Man of the Year, Bloomfield Recreation Department Citizen of the Year, Bloomfield Athletic Hall of Fame (Individual and Team). In addition, Fred sponsored and coached Freddie Foxes Softball Team, and coached the Bloomfield Suburban Travel Softball Team and won numerous championships. He was also an American Softball Association (ASA) umpire for over 20 years and was instrumental in the inception of the William Foley Football League.



Megan Hernandez

The Jackie Courter Fine Arts Scholarship

Megan believes art is the ultimate communicator, transcending language barriers and evoking different emotions in all who view it. An example she gives is the pop art and graffiti created by 1980's NYC artist, Keith Haring. Haring, in his attempt to call attention to the AIDS crisis, created simple, eye-catching figures that compelled others to look at them and contemplate what he was trying to say. It is Megan's goal to spread messages as Haring and many other artists have done, to those who wish to be enlightened by them.

During her high school career, Megan was involved in extracurricular activities including but not limited to: stage crew for the fall and spring musicals, set design and construction, prop management, Art Club, GLOW (Human Rights Club) and the after school program called DEN. She also volunteered at the Montclair Animal Shelter on the weekends where she tended to an overpopulation of cats.

Her talent has blossomed over the years she has been at BHS. She is fully committed to every task she undertakes from the simplest color study to projects that spans months. An art teacher said in a letter of recommendation for Megan that as teachers they are in the business of inspiring students, but that occasionally a student comes along to inspire the teacher. Megan is such a student. She is graduating with a 3.79 and in the top 50 in her class of 443. She has been accepted at The School of Visual Arts in New York City and Moore College of Art and Design in Philadelphia, PA.

About The Jackie Courter Fine Arts Scholarship

Jackie Courter proudly shared her love of art with Bloomfield school district students for over 40 years. Not long after her retirement in 2015, Jackie passed away after a long cancer battle. In late 2017, Jackie's family felt that creation of this scholarship would be a fitting tribute to her life's passion and her dedication to Bloomfield students. Gary Lordi, Jackie's cousin, is proud to present the Jackie Courter Scholarship Award in the amount of \$2,000. Amounts will be determined annually and the Bloomfield Educational Foundation will award it annually for the next ten (10) years.



Brandon Wojak

Joseph Poniatowski Beneficial Association Scholarship

Brandon values the customs and traditions of his Polish heritage and takes pride in the resilience of the generations of family who have come before him. He credits their examples of a strong work ethic and high moral standards with shaping who he has become. His family has always been community minded and gave him an early introduction into the importance of helping in the community and in continuing the traditions going forward.

Achieving the rank of Eagle Scout by age 16 is an achievement that only 6% of all involved in scouting attain. His Eagle Scout project was a 2-day clean up of several areas of Clarks Pond Nature

Preserve to enable the public to enjoy this Bloomfield treasure. Additionally a clean path was established to enable fishermen to have safe access to the dam area. The outdoor classroom by the pond was also refurbished and the Middle School classes are once again able to use it. Not satisfied to rest on his accomplishments, Brandon organized a Food Drive for the Montclair Food Pantry and received many donations. This food fed people in Montclair who were in need of help and encouraged Brandon to get involved in other service projects around town. Maintaining high standards in academics, Brandon made the Honor Roll in Middle School and was chosen Student of the Month. In high school, Brandon persisted where other students would resign themselves to a mediocre grade. Instead of being satisfied with just passing, Brandon worked harder and was determined and did ultimately raise up his grades, no matter the complexity of the subject.

Sports have also been an integral part of his life. He has played on school soccer and basketball teams but baseball is his real passion. Through dedication and hard work, he lettered in BHS Baseball team in his junior year and is looked forward to playing as a senior this year. Throughout all of his achievements he credits the standards set by his family and the members of The Joseph Poniatowski Beneficial Association, which showed him how, through strength and determination, he can achieve any goal that he sets for himself. He has been accepted to Montclair State University, Ramapo University and William Paterson University.

About The Joseph Poniatowski Beneficial Association Award:

In 1910, the JPBA purchased their headquarters on 41 Myrtle Avenue, now Broughton Avenue. In 1917, The Saint Valentine's Mutual Benefit Society merged with the JPBA and registered the organization as the Joseph Poniatowski Beneficial Association, a Non-Profit Corporation in the State of New Jersey. In 1923, the JPBA formed a Building Committee to build a new Multi-Purpose Hall. The new Hall was named the "White Eagle Auditorium" a symbol of the strength, and power of Polish traditions. The name was changed to The Essex Manor in 1986. Throughout its rich 114 year history, the JPBA prospered under the guidance of very energetic Executive Committees that were not only beneficial to its members, but also made substantial monetary contributions to local schools, churches, hospitals, charitable and civic organizations. Many organizations made the White Eagle Hall their Headquarters, including; American Savings & Loan, American Legion-White Eagle Post, No.448 Auxiliaries, Holy Rosary Society, Local Politicians and others.

In 2014, the JPBA Executive Committee and Members voted to sell the assets due to changing demographics and declining membership. The JPBA was proud to establish the Joseph Poniatowski Beneficial Association Scholarship Award in the amount of \$2,000 in 2015. The Bloomfield Educational Foundation will award it annually for the next seven (7) years, until 2024.



Josette Cruz

Leroy Straight and Dorothy Jewkes Straight Scholarship and The Matthew Melucci Scholarship

Josette asserts that the women in her life are her greatest inspiration. She says they are “more powerful than a typhoon, gentle as a summer breeze and as captivating as the starry night skies of Puerto Rico.” The definition of perseverance, she has set out to prove that her life will be as meaningful as theirs.

Fluent in both Spanish and English, Josette takes her first inspiration from her grandmother, who was born and raised in the rocky

countryside of San Sebastian, Puerto Rico. Her mom passed away when she was in the 3rd grade and being the only girl of 7, she took on many of the duties of her late mother. She taught herself how to read and write and after moving from the U.S. to Puerto Rico and back a few times, she settled in Newark and raised 4 children. She worked to remain independent and to this day, at 74, she is vibrant and inspiring to Josie.

Josie’s Mom was the first woman to graduate college, and did so from Rutgers University with a Bachelor’s in Business. After working in the corporate world for a while, she decided to switch gears and got her elementary school teacher certification. She currently teaches 2nd grade dual-language classes and loves her work and cherishes her students.

Josette aspires to be an Art Therapist by taking a major in Psychology. While maintaining a stellar GPA was of the utmost importance to her, Josette has also been a high achiever in her extracurricular activities. Sophomore year, she was chosen for the Congressional Art Competition for High School students and her piece was exhibited in the New Art Museum. She is also part of the School Library and her love of reading supports the perspective she holds that, “art has an undeniable ability to bring people together.”

Josette plans to attend Rutgers Newark in the fall. Her willingness to work hard, and tap into and help the others who struggle in this world, will serve her well in her college career.

About The Dorothy Jewkes Straight and Leroy Straight Award:

This award was created by BHS Class of 1965 graduate, Candace Straight, in memory and in honor of her mother, Dorothy Jewkes Straight, '39 and her father, Leroy Straight, '40. Paid to awardee in 4 installments: one before the fall semester of each of the four years of college.

About The Matthew Melucci Scholarship:

Matt was born and raised in Bloomfield. A well-rounded student, key member of the football team, and graduated with honors from BHS in 1962. Matt attended Rutgers University, New Brunswick, and graduated in 1966, with a degree in Political Science. Matt was elected president of his fraternity in his sophomore year, and, was then elected president of the Inter-Fraternity Council, representing over 35 fraternities and over 5000 students. He served as an officer in the US Army Military Police, at NATO headquarters in Belgium.

After his military service, Matt moved to the St. Louis area and worked in City Planning, taking a lead in creating many new projects for the inner city. Matt received his M.A. from St. Louis University and began a long career in public service. He entered politics and became Congressman Jerry Costello's Chief of Staff, a position he held until elected to the office of Madison County Clerk, in Illinois. He became Chairman of the Democratic Party in the county. Matt dedicated his life to public service and was re-elected every time he ran for office. Matt touched and improved the lives of thousands of people. Matt Melucci is remembered for his dedicated public service.

Friends and classmates of Matt Melucci established this award in 2013. The Bloomfield Educational Foundation will award it annually, for 10 years until 2023.



Chinonso Enyinna Anyanwu

Leroy Straight and Dorothy Jewkes Straight Scholarship Theodore Jasieniecki Scholarship

Chinonso has proven he is a focused and gifted student, through his drive and motivation to always do better. Having taken difficult courses in his freshman and sophomore years, which did not produce results to his satisfaction, he increased his efforts and through self-study, excelled on the SAT's and in the classroom in his junior and senior years. He achieved this academic success all while being a three-year varsity volleyball and basketball player. In his senior year, Chinonso was made Captain of the boy's

basketball team, and led his team to a Divisional Championship with a 12-3 record, despite the pandemic. He is also very proud that his team was awarded the sportsmanship banner by the NJSIAA, to commend their sportsmanlike conduct on the basketball court.

Not only is Chinonso a tenacious athlete, he is an honor roll student who juggles a very challenging academic schedule, procuring a 3.55 GPA and an impressive 1380 on his SAT's. He represents Bloomfield High School very well as he participates as a peer leader, mock trial and volleyball member. Chinonso especially enjoyed his role as a peer leader, where he mentored a class of between 15-20 freshmen and assisted them through the school year. Topics covered during this program included peer pressure, stereotyping, and mental health. He feels that nothing is more rewarding than building a relationship where students come to you, trusting that you will guide them in the right direction.

Chinonso will attend Rutgers Newark in the fall, and will bring his "A" game with him, while he pursues a major in finance and hopes to continue his basketball career on a division three level.

About The Dorothy Jewkes Straight and Leroy Straight Scholarship

This award was created by BHS Class of 1965 graduate, Candace Straight, in memory and in honor of her mother, Dorothy Jewkes Straight, '39 and her father, Leroy Straight, '40. Paid to awardee in 4 installments: one before the fall semester of each of the four years of college.

About The Theodore Jasieniecki Scholarship:

The Theodore Jasieniecki Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a male and female varsity basketball player. Ted Jasieniecki was one of the best players in Bloomfield High School basketball history. Ted was an early member of Bloomfield High School's 1000-point club. He was an all-star baseball pitcher, a respected leader in the class of '67, and member of the National Honor Society, graduating in the top 5% of his class. Ted served as the Town Prosecutor for Bloomfield in the early '80s, and remained an active member of the Bloomfield community as an attorney, as well as a member of the Lion's Club, until his untimely death, at the age of 37.



Joshua Gumbloc

Leroy Straight and Dorothy Jewkes Straight Scholarship

Balancing schoolwork and many extracurricular activities are strengths that Joshua possesses. He is also an innovator. Recognizing the need for a club to help teach about his Asian heritage during the pandemic, he petitioned the high school and was given an advisor, Mr. Chen. He then set about to make sure the experiences of the 80 members were both entertaining and informative. In the newly created Asian Cultures Club, Joshua taught the members about their heritage with various activities. One such activity was creating lanterns for the Lunar New Year, which taught some of the language and existing traditions of the culture.

Joshua says that being a founder of a club has increased his confidence in his ability to lead a group and has improved his leadership skills.

Helping new students feel at home in their new surroundings was also a strength that Joshua possessed from a grade school student to the present. Although he thought of his kind and friendly gestures as simple, he was surprised when, at his sixth grade graduation, he was presented with the Demarest School Presidents Award. And his empathy and winning attitude continued into his middle and high school years.

Described as an extraordinary young man by his advisor, Joshua impressed her with his attentiveness, work ethic, talent and honesty. He excelled not only in the classroom but outside of it as well. As secretary to the National Honor Society and member of the marching band, he has been a positive role model to other students.

Joshua looks forward to pursuing a career in pharmacy at Rutgers University. It has always been a dream of his to work in the medical field and he plans to bring his qualities of leadership and sportsmanship with him. He will also continue to balance school work and fun, while meeting new and different people and creating lasting memories.

About The Leroy Straight and Dorothy Jewkes Straight Scholarship:

This award was created by BHS Class of 1965 graduate, Candace Straight, in memory and in honor of her mother, Dorothy Jewkes Straight, '39 and her father, Leroy Straight, '40. Paid to awardee in 4 installments: one before the fall semester of each of the four years of college.



Joelle Gonnella

Mark and Charlotte Greenstein Student Athlete Award

Joelle is committed, selfless and passionate. She reaches beyond expectations and strives to provide support and assistance to others, all while maintaining her focus on her own studies and leading by example. A member of both the World Language Honor Society and The National Honor Society, Joelle balanced many extracurricular activities with her heavy course load of honors and AP classes.

Cheerleading was a big part of Joelle's high school career and culminated with her being elected Captain of the BHS squad. As such she could be seen volunteering at The Childhood Cancer and Suicide Prevention Walk, Bloomfield PBA Toy Drive, and Cheer for a Cure. Although her senior year began with uncertainty, she knew there was more for her to accomplish. With the cheering season in question, she volunteered to represent BHS for a national project called Operation CheerUp and was chosen to be an ambassador. She then made videos with her cheering team to support the Bloomfield Mayor, Police, Fire, EMS, food stores, principals and teachers and custodians. They continued by participating in drive-by parades for birthdays, police and fire stations, town hall and local businesses. She also participated in a parade for Mountainside Hospital nurse and doctors and staff, delivering baskets to the midnight shift at the hospital as well. Joelle asserts that being a cheerleader has taught her discipline, commitment and responsibility and as Captain she has gained valuable leadership skills.

Joelle has been accepted to Rutgers New Brunswick School of Arts and Sciences where she will study Psychology.

About The Mark & Charlotte Greenstein Student Athlete Award:

To recognize their parents' many years of giving back within the community, Louis and Neil Greenstein created this scholarship to recognize and support student athletes at Bloomfield High School as they endeavor to pursue a college education. The award will be in the amount of \$500 each for a male and female student. It will be awarded annually for five (5) years by the Bloomfield Educational Foundation.



Amaya Perry

The Robert Fetterly Jr. Alumni Scholarship

Teachers and administrators alike describe Amaya as diligent, full of integrity with a passion for learning daily. As a bright young woman and a responsible student, Amaya will graduate in the top 5% of her class. Amaya strove to become the best student she could be and to be more knowledgeable about the world around her. With these goals in mind, she served in the Always Vocal choral group, and Student Government Association as their Secretary. In these groups she often found herself taking on a leadership role and being the driving force behind accomplishing a project or coming up with ideas.

Recognizing that great leaders encourage ideas to be followed rather than demand, Amaya was careful to make sure that everyone had a say in what was being done. In junior year, she was honored to have been chosen for the Bloomfield High School leadership program. This vital program saw upperclassmen provide classes and guidance for freshmen. This experience helped to further build her leadership skills and mold her into the person she is today.

Amaya enrolled in honors level and Advanced Placement courses throughout the four years at BHS. She especially enjoyed her participation in Always Vocals a select group of singers who seek an outlet for their talents and love of vocal performance that goes beyond what is offered in formal courses. She will cherish the friendships forged and memories made as the result of this effort. She also served as a member of Montclair GEMS, a program created to help support and mentor young African-American women preparing for college.

Amaya has been accepted at Elmira College, Fairleigh Dickenson University, Centenary University, Kean University, Rutgers University and Drexel University. Her intellectual curiosity and leadership ability will make her a wonderful addition to whichever school she chooses.

About the Robert Fetterly, Jr. Alumni Award:

The Alumni Scholarship was renamed in Mr. Fetterly's honor in recognition of his lifelong support and dedication to programs and activities of the Bloomfield Public Schools. In addition to his support of the school programs Mr. Fetterly served the Bloomfield Community as a township council member. He is a co-founder of the Bloomfield Educational Foundation and an annual contributor to this scholarship.



Quaid Mullane

Sheldon Seevak/Anne Itkin Ethics Award

Quaid exhibits a mature outlook on life, and has shown a complete understanding of the definition of student athlete. His accomplishments are nothing short of astounding, beginning with his GPA of 4.45, with a rigorous course load of Honors and Advanced Placement courses in his schedule. He maintained these grades all the while earning 11 Varsity letters during his BHS career in three different sports, (cross country, track and golf) and was named Captain of all three teams.

In Quaid's own words, a leader is someone who not only lives ethically, but shows others how to also do so. Here is an excerpt from his scholarship essay:

In a world where people continually face challenges and look to others for help, it is important to have people possessing strong ethics in a position of power. As the leader of a group, one must rely on ethical leadership to not only check themselves, but motivate others who look up to them to follow these same values. As a leader both inside and outside of the classroom, I have relied on the values rooted in ethical leadership to help shape who I am.

In society, ethical leadership is important in allowing you to care for yourself, and as a result, care for those around you. By ensuring that you maintain your integrity and follow your values, you can act as a role model for those around you, giving them a leading figure to emulate and also acting as a figure who they can come to whenever they may need. In my personal life, I have taken on the role of a leading figure during my time as a captain across three sports. Whether it be freshmen who are acclimating to a new environment, newcomers who are expanding their bubble, or returning members of the team, I make it my responsibility to look out for any needs they may have in order to make them as comfortable as possible.

In addition, portraying yourself as an ethical leader involves leading by example. In order to prove to others that you are the right person to lead them, you must be able to face and deal with any struggles that life throws at you; in addition, you must demonstrate respect towards them in order to earn their respect in return. As a captain, this means greeting everyone, whether it be coaches, teammates, or opponents, and putting in 110% effort every practice to showcase how working hard will lead to improvement.

When Quaid is not at school or working on a sport, he can be found volunteering at Toni's Kitchen Food Ministry in Montclair, The First Tee of Raritan Valley, where he works with young golfers, and for USA Track and Field NJ. In the summer, he can be found at Montclair Beach Club as a recently promoted Head Life Guard, and working for Bloomfield Recreation Department as a scoreboard operator.

Quaid has a special ability to get along with others and this ability will enable him to conquer any task that he may encounter. Ranked 11 in his class of 443, Quaid will head to Villanova School of Business in the fall.

About The Seevak/Itkin Ethics Award:

Sheldon Seevak was the founder of the Real Estate Group at Goldman Sachs and Anne Itkin was his sister. They both believed in doing the right things the right way and that integrity is fundamental to all relationships. In honoring these two individuals, we wish to highlight the principle that people can be most successful and happy when they practice sound ethics in their lives.



Cassandra McCulloch

The Sgt. Joseph Paris Memorial Scholarship

Many of Cassandra's family have been involved in emergency services, beginning with her Dad who has been a Bloomfield Firefighter for over 30 years and is currently the president of the Deputy Chiefs Union. Her uncle is a Fire Chief and her half-brother is also a fire fighter. As the result, Cassandra has grown up watching them put themselves on the line everyday.

As a child, Cassandra visited the firehouse with frequency and learned about how the equipment protected her Dad and the firefighters he served with. As a fire fighter, her Dad's job inspired her to help others and to be a part of the community. Watching Cassandra serve as a Peer Leader, teaching classes to freshmen to help them adapt to high school, it's hard to believe that she just got to BHS herself in her junior year. She is also a member of The Key Club, was part of the BHS cross-country team and worked for Bloomfield Recreation sports clinics the past two summers. Her love of children spurred her to pursue a job at Milestones Academy as a part time preschool assistant teacher. Her work ethic has been at a high level no matter what the circumstances and her high GPA and rank in the top 25% in her class reflects her hard work and determination.

Cassandra has been accepted to Montclair State University, Penn State, Rutgers University, University of Delaware and William Paterson University. She has made a significant impact on the BHS community during her short time there and no doubt will do the same at whatever institution she chooses.

About The Sgt. Joseph Paris Memorial Scholarship:

Joseph Paris, Jr. created The Sgt. Joseph Paris Memorial Scholarship, in memory of and in recognition of his father's dedication for 30 years as a Bloomfield Police Officer, and for his bravery as a decorated World War II P.O.W.



Kwesi Wilson

Sidney Itkin Scholarship

Hard work and determination can be used to describe Kwesi Wilson. A student-athlete from freshman year, Wilson was elected Captain of his football team in senior year and Captain of his Indoor and Outdoor Track Teams in Junior and Senior years. Football Coach Mike Carter said he has been so pleased with Kwesi's ability to lead his team in times of victory and also in times of defeat where determination and hard work are necessary to change the tide.

Coach Carter describes Kwesi as "having a great work ethic, enjoys being a Bengal, leads by example and is highly respected by peers and faculty. He also loves working out in the weight room."

Excelling in college preparatory classes all during his high school career has prepared Kwesi for the next step as a college student. He was thrilled when he gained acceptances at Arizona State University, Mt. St. Mary's University, University of New Haven, Franklin Pierce University, Stockton University, Monmouth University and Georgian Court University. With these qualities going for him, and a wonderful choice of universities from which to choose, there is no telling what the future holds for this bright and talented young man.

About The Sidney Itkin Scholarship:

Harold Itkin, BHS '67, in honor of his father, established the Sidney M. Itkin Scholarship in 2010.

Awarded to:

1. A student in good standing of graduating class of Bloomfield High School.
2. A candidate for post high school continuing education.
3. Member of the Bloomfield High School Varsity Football Program in good standing.
4. Representative of, but, not necessarily the most gifted or talented player, but the player who is most dedicated to the Bengal Football Program.
5. Representative of a "*Bloomfield Guy*", who participates in the program with passion and pride as the consummate team player.



Daniel Nichol

The William Foley Scholarship

Daniel's goal from the start of his freshman year at BHS was to pursue a college education. With that in mind, he enrolled in as many college prep courses that he could throughout his four years and will graduate in the top half of his class.

Daniel earned Varsity letters in wrestling and football. This past season as a wrestler he achieved an impressive 15 wins in a hard fought 26 match season.

BHS Football Coach Mike Carter relied on Daniel's tenacity and determination on the football field. Not shy to practice and perfect his position, Daniel can be credited with 23 tackles this year including one sack against very tough opponents. Coach Carter looked to #77, Guard and Defensive Tackle, Daniel Nichol, to motivate his teammates as he exemplified what being a Bengal was all about.

The BHS Athletic Director described a game where Daniel played a big role in their win by saying, "Football mounted a ferocious comeback against Passaic. Trailing 26-6 with six minutes left, the Bengals scored three times culminating with a touchdown pass from Chas Abplanalp to Darrell Dunn with 18 seconds left on the clock. The Bengals emerged with a 28-26 victory."

Daniel will take his work ethic and positive attitude and be successful as he continues his education at college in the fall.

About The William Foley Scholarship:

This award was established in 1960 in honor of Mr. Foley who was Head Football Coach for BHS from 1915-1951. Bill Foley coached 2,000 boys on 101 teams, winning 12 state championships in football, 3 in basketball and 3 in baseball. Upon his retirement he said: "I never expected anything like this. I just went through life doing the best job I could. At BHS I fell into a garden where flowers grow. Conditions were right and I had plenty to work with".

About the BEF

The **Bloomfield Educational Foundation** was founded in 1999 and is a 501-c-3 organization dedicated to enhancing the educational experiences for all students of the Bloomfield School System. To date over 1.2 million dollars have been donated to the Bloomfield School District to support classroom grants, and District-wide initiatives such as the one-to-one Chromebooks project and the SAT prep classes and funding for all AP tests. In addition, the **BEF** awards 27 scholarships annually, totaling over \$54,000. The **BEF** also re-connects BHS alumni through events such as the Fall Tailgate Party, Winter Alumni Basketball game and Annual Gala. For more information about the **BEF**, or to make a donation, kindly visit our website:

www.bloomfieldeducationalfoundation.org