

Press Clippings 04/23/2019

---The Daily Herald---04/23/2019

U-46 to award 40 scholarships Wednesday to first-generation collegegoers

By: Madhu Krishnamurthy

Elgin Area School District U-46 will award scholarships Wednesday to 40 high school seniors who will be the first in their families to attend college.

The eighth annual Superintendent's Scholarship reception and awards ceremony begins at 6 p.m. at Streamwood High School, 701 W. Schaumburg Road. Student recipients, their families, school principals and scholarship donors will attend.

This year marks the highest number of scholarships awarded since the Superintendent's Scholarship fund was established in 2012 through the U-46 Educational Foundation. To date, more than 220 U-46 graduates have received a \$1,000 scholarship each.

Recipients were selected by a panel of judges from more than 300 applicants from the district's five comprehensive high schools -- Bartlett, Elgin, Larkin, South Elgin and Streamwood.

"They've outwitted and overcome challenges and adversity in their lives such as poverty, language barriers, stereotypes, and trauma," U-46 CEO Tony Sanders said. "I am extremely proud of these students and grateful to all those who donated to the Superintendent's Scholarship program."

Students' applications included high school transcripts, copies of Federal Student Aid applications, letters of recommendation from an adult and personal essays.

Recipients also have participated in a networking workshop led by former U-46 school board member Traci O'Neal Ellis emphasizing the skills needed to make a good first impression and demonstrate self-confidence. Each awardee also received a customized box of business cards.

During Wednesday's reception, students will be honored for their accomplishments and urged to visit with donors and administrators. Scholarship recipients are:

- Bartlett High -- Ashley Diaz, Kendra Payne, Dana Siciliano, Kelsey Sniatynsky, Victoria Rzucidlo.
- Elgin High -- Ezequiel Bedolla, Giovanni Cisneros, Gabriela Cuautle, Lauren Dimayuga, Khalil Jennette, Italo Rojas, Inga Suceska.
- Larkin High -- Elisa Arce, Fernando Guzman Jr., Jordan Kosin, Erika Lara-Tellez, Taylor Long, Melanie Lopez, Jair Nunez, Omar Ramirez, Maritza Renteria, Margarita Sanchez, Leslie Solano, Mareena Sower, Carlos Toledo Jr.
- South Elgin High -- Christian Gordon, Makayla Hall-Lee, Alex Herrera, Maritza Pitones, Vraj Thakkar.

•Streamwood High -- Karina Adan, Diego Castillo, Edgar Gasca, Christian Gonzalez, Kiara Kerkooffs, Haydee Perez, Nicole Rataj, Jennifer Robillard, Jennifer Teran, Jocelyn Vences.

---The Courier-News---04/23/2019

U46, education foundation to give 40 \$1,000 scholarships to first-generation college students

By: Rafael Guerrero



School District U46 will recognize 40 students with \$1,000 scholarships at a reception Wednesday.

School District U46 this week will recognize 40 senior-year students who will receive \$1,000 scholarships.

The students will receive the Superintendent's Scholarship, a \$1,000 award to students who will be first-generation college students once they graduate high school this spring. The 40 scholarships is the most ever given in the program's eight-year history, a district news release said.

"All 40 students are committed to their education and the promise of a better life, a promise fulfilled by post-secondary education," said U46 CEO Tony Sanders in a written statement. "They've outwitted and overcome challenges and adversity in their lives such as poverty, language barriers, stereotypes, and trauma."

The Superintendent's Scholarship fund was established through the district's educational foundation and has rewarded 220 high school graduates since its inception.

This year's recipients represent all five U46 schools. The recipients are:

- Bartlett High School: Ashley Diaz, Kendra Payne, Dana Siciliano, Kelsey Sniatynsky, Victoria Rzucidlo.
- Elgin High School: Ezequiel Bedolla, Giovanni Cisneros, Gabriela Cuautle, Lauren Dimayuga, Khalil Jennette, Italo Rojas, Inga Suceska.
- Larkin High School: Elisa Arce, Fernando Guzman Jr., Jordan Kosin, Erika Lara-Tellez, Taylor Long, Melanie Lopez, Jair Nunez, Omar Ramirez, Maritza Renteria, Margarita Sanchez, Leslie Solano, Mareena Sower, Carlos Toledo Jr.
- South Elgin High School: Christian Gordon, Makayla Hall-Lee, Alex Herrera, Maritza Pitones, Vraj Thakkar.

- Streamwood High School: Karina Adan, Diego Castillo, Edgar Gasca, Christian Gonzalez, Kiara Kerkooffs, Haydee Perez, Nicole Rataj, Jennifer Robillard, Jennifer Teran, Jocelyn Vences.

The recipients, their families, principals, and scholarship donors will be recognized at a ceremony at 6 p.m. Wednesday at Streamwood High School.

The high school seniors submitted applications for the scholarship in the winter, complete with their transcripts, federal financial aid documentation, a letter of recommendation and a personal essay. According to the news release, judges selected 40 students from a pool more than 300 applicants. The students will be attending Aurora University, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, [DePaul University](#), the [University of Kentucky](#), and [Illinois State University](#), according to the district.

Prior to this week's reception, former U46 school board member Traci O'Neal Ellis conducted a networking workshop with the teens, and each received a customized box of business cards.