

# Press Clippings - 6/26/2023

## – Daily Herald –

### **Elgin News Digest: ... Elgin Area Chamber awards five college scholarships**

**June 23, 2023**

**By Mike Danahey - The Courier-News**

#### **Elgin Area Chamber awards five college scholarships**

The Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce and its economic development program, Elgin Development Group, have awarded five \$1,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors pursuing further education.

The scholarships were presented to **Litzy Melchor, Elgin High School; Jordan Green, South Elgin High School; Zoie Adamson, Larkin High School; Andrea Jimenez, Elgin High School; and Laura Mata, Elgin High School.**

Scholarship selections were based on the applicant's scholastic achievement, interest in continuing education, career goals and participation and leadership in school and community activities, a news release said.

*To read the full article, click [here](#).*

## – Prairie Farmer –

### **Q&A: Illinois state superintendent on ag education**

**The new superintendent dropped in for a meeting of the Illinois Leadership Council on Ag Ed, and took good notes on the possibilities for ag education in Illinois.**

**June 23, 2023**

**By Holly Spangler - Prairie Farmer, Farm Progress**

When Tony Sanders was named Illinois state superintendent earlier this year by the Illinois Board of Education, he came to the position as **superintendent of U-46**, a 38,000-student public school district in Elgin with five high schools — the second-largest school district in the state.

So when the Illinois Leadership Council for Agricultural Education invited Sanders to address their meeting during the Illinois FFA Convention, he jumped at the chance. And learned a lot. Here's a look at what he learned, and what he hopes for ag education in Illinois.

**What did you learn about agriculture in your first ILCAE meeting?** I'm recognizing really the growth that's occurred in this industry over the last 20 years. At the state board of education, we need to continue our focus on agribusiness as one of our sectors of focus.

**But this wasn't new information for you.** Right. I've lived in rural Illinois, so I know the contributions of agriculture and that it's the No. 1 industry in the state. But it's always good to hear that again and be reminded of that in this new role.

**Funding is the problem nearly every rural school district deals with. What's the solution for rural schools that want an ag career program — or want to support their existing ag program?** Since 2018, the state Legislature has invested \$1 billion through an evidence-based funding formula for public education. That's the primary driver. Those resources are the most flexible for school districts to use. As a former superintendent [at Elgin], it allowed me to invest \$20 million a year extra in capital expenditures, specifically around career and technical education programs for our students.

**So that's a funding priority for the Legislature?** Yes, that would be my first focus on everything budgetary. We want to make sure the Legislature invests in that. Everything else that they provide on top of that — career technical education funding, agricultural education funding, tuition reimbursement funding — I see that as icing on the cake of the evidence-based funding formula.

**Where does ag stand in the CTE options?** I think it's part of a suite of options. What I loved about our ag ed conversation was the cross-curricular piece, which I'd never really thought about.

**How so?** Agriculture professions that students are going into are high science, high math. So why not somehow allow them to get credit for the science and the math portion? That is something new to really start thinking about.

The other is the cross functionality between all the other CTE programs that exist like welding, automotive. In my district, we were just starting to do electric vehicles and diesel, but how do we expand that across the state to multiple districts and recognize that

it's not just one or the other for students? They can choose a variety of things and still be successful in any agribusiness.

**How does a rural school district meet the needs of the student who wants to weld as a career and the student who wants to work in digital and precision ag technology?** And those kids are in the same class! Partnering with neighboring schools is one way to get it done. In my previous district, we used our regional system to build programs with synergy. We had **five high schools in U-46**, and we offered welding, precision manufacturing, automotive, culinary — anything you could think of. But we didn't offer vet tech or FFA, so we partnered with another school district that did. Students in both districts could share in all those programs.

We have to stop competing with one another and start complementing one another in public education. School districts may not have the capacity locally to do a full-fledged program. The more we do together, the better we are.

## – Courier-News –

### **The 2023 Courier-News All-Area Team**

**June 25, 2023**

**By Paul Johnson for Beacon-News First Team**

Joey Arend, St. Charles East, sophomore, pitcher/outfielder: Went 8-1 with 64 strikeouts and 1.43 ERA in 40 1/3 innings. Batted .388 with six extra-base hits, 30 runs, 21 RBIs. Conference pitcher of the year.

Gavin Duran, Harvest Christian, junior, shortstop: Batted .477 with nine triples, three homers, program-record 38 steals. All-state and all-conference.

Brady Gilroy, Burlington Central, junior, shortstop/outfielder: Batted .471 with 16 steals, eight doubles, five triples, nine homers, 35 RBIs. All-state and all-conference.

**Tyler Glowacki, South Elgin**, senior, pitcher: Went 6-3 with three saves, 67 strikeouts and 1.79 ERA in 47 innings. Conference pitcher of the year.

Cody Hazzard, Yorkville Christian, senior, pitcher: Went 7-3 with 96 strikeouts in 46 1/3 innings. Batted .396. All-state and all-conference.

Trey Hernandez, Oswego, senior, third baseman: Batted .423 with 18 runs, 13 doubles, two triples, two homers, 43 RBIs. Conference player of the year.

Martin Ledbetter, Hinckley-Big Rock, sophomore, pitcher/catcher/first baseman: Batted .563 with 37 runs, 10 doubles, two triples, program-record 12 homers, 43 RBIs. Went 2-1 with 61 strikeouts and 2.45 ERA in 28 2/3 innings. All-state and two-time all-conference.

Joseph Martin, Newark, senior, pitcher/shortstop: Hit .452 with 26 runs, 20 steals, 33 RBIs. Had 1.60 ERA and 107 strikeouts in 48 innings. All-state. Committed to SIU Edwardsville.

Eddie Scaccia, Oswego, senior, pitcher: Went 4-1 with 1.42 ERA and 56 strikeouts in 34 innings. Conference pitcher of the year.

**Nick Weaver, Streamwood**, senior, catcher: Batted .543 with 47 runs, 28 steals, 12 doubles, four triples, five homers, 34 RBIs. Went 2-0 with 1.90 ERA. Two-time all-state. Conference player of the year.

Kam Yearsley, Yorkville, junior, outfielder/pitcher: Hit .526 with 33 runs, 10 doubles, two triples, six homers, 39 RBIs. Went 2-0 with two saves, 22 strikeouts and 2.50 ERA in 14 innings. All-conference.

Jake Zitella, St. Charles East, senior, third baseman: Hit .484 with 32 runs, 13 doubles, a triple, nine homers, 39 RBIs. All-state. Conference player of the year. Committed to Illinois.

## **Second Team**

James Brennan, St. Charles East, senior, first baseman/pitcher: Batted .361 with 16 runs, seven doubles, five homers, 27 RBIs. Went 3-0 with program-record nine saves. Struck out 29 in 21 2/3 innings. All-conference.

Josh Caccia, St. Charles North, junior, pitcher: Struck out 90 in 55 innings with 1.30 ERA. All-conference.

Christian Graves, Jacobs, senior, pitcher/first baseman: Hit .328 with nine homers and 31 RBIs. Went 4-3 with 58 strikeouts and 2.85 ERA in 66 2/3 innings. All-conference. Committed to Bradley.

Nate Harris, Yorkville, junior, outfielder/pitcher: Hit .379 with 36 runs, 11 doubles, two triples, five homers, 14 RBIs. All-conference. Committed to Northwestern.

Ryan Niedzwiedz, West Aurora, senior, shortstop/pitcher: Hit .409 with six steals, eight doubles, eight homers, 21 RBIs. All-conference and team MVP. Committed to SIU Edwardsville.

Michael Person, Burlington Central, junior, pitcher/shortstop: Hit .357 with 37 runs,

eight doubles, a triple, four homers, 18 RBIs. Went 5-1 with 66 strikeouts and 2.96 ERA in 51 1/3 innings. All-conference.

Mike Polubinski, Oswego East, senior, outfielder: Batted .468 with 35 runs, 12 doubles, two triples, three homers, 24 RBIs. All-conference.

Henry Saul, Batavia, senior, catcher: Hit .330 with 12 doubles, two triples, two homers, 27 RBIs. All-conference.

Simon Skroch, Yorkville, junior, pitcher: Went 6-4 with a save, 95 strikeouts and 1.94 ERA in 54 innings. All-conference. Committed to Minnesota.

Jackson Spring, St. Charles North, junior, shortstop: Hit .350 with 32 runs, seven doubles, 25 RBIs. All-conference.

Nate Stempowski, Geneva, junior, shortstop: Hit .426 with 34 runs, nine doubles, two triples, six homers, 35 RBIs. All-conference.

Jack Watson, Batavia, senior, pitcher: Posted 2.37 ERA and 64 strikeouts in 38 1/3 innings. All-conference.

### **Honorable Mention**

Daniel Bastidas, Metea Valley, junior, infielder; Josh Colaizzi, Bartlett, freshman, outfielder/pitcher; Chris Lara, Streamwood, senior, shortstop; Austin Leonard, Hampshire, senior, catcher; Nate Nazos, Batavia, junior, pitcher; Josh Polubinski, Oswego East, senior, third baseman/outfielder; Adan Rocha, Aurora Christian, senior, pitcher/infielder; Jared Rodriguez, Harvest Christian, senior, pitcher; Sam Rohlfing, Harvest Christian, senior, infielder/pitcher; Griffin Sleyko, Oswego East, senior, pitcher; Zach Stuck, Aurora Central Catholic, senior, outfielder; Parker Violet, Kaneland, junior, infielder/outfielder.