

NEWS RELEASE

REALTOR® Association of Pioneer Valley

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Realtor® Association of Pioneer Valley Awards 13 Scholarships to First-Year Students



L-R: David Belew (Chief Executive Officer, RAPV), Sullivan Serafino-Marrin, Asa Crosdale, Bretonya Fontaine, Oliver Postera, Gabrielle Benoit, Gianna Stirlacci, Alexis Ferraro, Brayden Leary, Henry Poissant, Eileen Fowler (Chair of RAPV Scholarship Committee)

Springfield, Mass. June 14, 2024 – This year marks the 50th year the REALTOR® Association of Pioneer Valley (RAPV) has awarded scholarships to college-bound students. Thirteen students were awarded a total of eleven thousand three hundred dollars.

The scholarship recipients were honored at a banquet held on June 12, 2024, at Ludlow Country Club in Ludlow, Mass. Since 1974, RAPV has awarded 494 students with over two hundred and fifty thousand dollars in scholarship funds.

Memorial scholarships were presented to four students. Alexis Ferraro and Olivia Dolan were awarded the Cindy Ayre Memorial Scholarship. Norah Santos received the Christine Schepps Good Neighbor Memorial Scholarship, and Gianna Stirlacci received the M. Connie Laplante Memorial Scholarship. The Cindy Ayre Memorial Scholarship is given to students majoring in Political Science or women in business, the Good Neighbor Memorial Scholarship is given to students with outstanding community service work, and the M. Connie Laplante Memorial Scholarship is given to students majoring in Education.

Oliver Postera received the Phil Pless Honorary Scholarship for Environmental Conservation.

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Congratulations to all the 2024 RAPV scholarship award recipients and their families:

- **Gabrielle Benoit** is a graduate of the McDuffie School. She will attend Gordon College and major in Nursing. She is the daughter of Breanna and Michael Benoit. Breanna is with Gallagher Real Estate, Holyoke.
- **Asa Crosdale** is a graduate of Niskayuna High School in New York. He will attend Ithaca College and major in Health Sciences with a concentration in Physical Therapy. Asa is the son of Tanya Harvey. Tanya is with RE/MAX Connections, Wilbraham.
- **Olivia Dolan** is a graduate of Pope Francis Preparatory School. She will attend Sacred Heart University and major in Marketing and Finance. Olivia is also a recipient of the Cindy Ayre Memorial Scholarship for Women in Business. She is the daughter of Cristin and Bill Dolan. Cristin is with Keller Williams Realty, Westfield.
- **Alexis Ferraro** is a graduate of Chicopee High School. She will attend Worcester State University and major in Business. She is also a recipient of the Cindy Ayre Memorial for Women in Business. She is the daughter of Karen and John Ferraro. Karen is with Gallagher Real Estate. Holyoke.
- **Bretonya Fontaine** is a graduate of Monson High School. She will attend Springfield College and major in Physical Therapy. She is the daughter of Scott and Maria Fontaine. Scott is with Berkshire Hathaway Home Service's Realty Professionals.
- **Antonio Goncalves** is a graduate of The Pope Francis Preparatory School. He will attend Arizona State and will major in Sports Broadcasting and Digital Journalism. He is the son of Heather and Antonio Goncalves. Heather is with Grace Group Realty.
- **Brayden Leary** is a graduate of Westfield High School. He will attend Westfield State University and major in Accounting and Finance. He is the son of Ania and Mark Leary. Ania is with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Realty Professionals, Westfield.
- **Grace Moltenbrey** is a graduate of East Longmeadow High School. She will attend Wentworth Institute of Technology and major in Biomedical Engineering. She is the daughter of John and Evette Moltenbrey. John is with Landmark Realtors, East Longmeadow.

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- **Henry Poissant** is a graduate of Belchertown High School. He will attend Campbell University and major in Business Administration and Professional Golf Management. He is the son of Richard and Sarah Poissant. Richard is with RE/MAX Compass, Westfield.
- **Oliver Postera** is a graduate of Greenfield High School. He will attend UMASS Amherst and major in Landscape Architecture. Oliver is also the recipient of the Phil Pless Honorary Scholarship for Environmental Conservation. He is the son of Christina and Brian Postera. Christina is with Brick & Mortar, Amherst.
- **Norah Santos** is a graduate of Chicopee High School. She will attend Assumption University and major in Marketing with a concentration in Sports Management. Norah is also the recipient of the Christine Schepps Good Neighbor Memorial scholarship for the work she has done to better her community. She is the daughter of Kim Moore. Kim is the Membership and Events Coordinator of RAPV.
- **Gianna Stirlacci** is a graduate of East Longmeadow High School. She will attend Westfield State University and major in Special Education. Gianna is also the recipient of the M. Connie Laplante Memorial Scholarship for Teaching. She is the daughter of Christine Stirlacci. Christine is with Nexthome Elite Realty, Springfield.
- **Sullivan Serafino Marrin** is a graduate of Agawam High School. He will attend Springfield Technical Community College and major in Energy Systems Technology. He is the son of Niccole Serafino and James Marrin. Nikki is with RE/MAX Connections, Wilbraham. ☎

Editors and reporters: Please note that the term Realtor® is properly spelled with an initial capital "R", per the Associated Press Stylebook, and is a registered trademark of the National Association of Realtors®.

