

Class of
2021
 *Congrats!*





Educators Credit Union's 84-year history is deeply rooted in helping build strong communities. At the center of this mission is a dedication to assisting students along their educational journeys.

Annually, Educators Credit Union awards \$70,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors heading off to college to help offset the cost of higher education. Each of the 35 winners were selected to receive \$2,000 based on their academic record, school participation, community activities, and their demonstration of one or more of Educators' core values: honesty, integrity, fairness, respect, excellence. In this booklet, the winners describe how they live out these core values and what their future endeavors include. Congratulations to all the 2021 winners!



SPENCER BARRIBEAU

Oak Creek High School
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Spencer Barribeau takes every opportunity to exemplify respect and share this principle with others.

“The world we share is a realm of immense diversity in every aspect imaginable: faith, gender, ethnicity, to name a few,” Spencer wrote. “I firmly believe that alongside diversity – exists not division but resiliency. The plurality of values and perspectives allows for a better understanding of our world and solutions to its issues. Nonetheless, people at times view diversity as a danger. Customs, attributes, and beliefs unfamiliar to them lead to harmful judgments for all those involved.”

For Spencer, attending a school that values teaching people of all backgrounds is a blessing. Because his school has special education programs, he was able to form great friendships with some of those in these programs.

“The joy brought from these friendships is just some of the blessings of respect.”

Although Spencer is not completely set on his career goals, he has always valued the work of teachers and can see himself in that position.

“In the future I hope to always help my community through various forms of service, like volunteering and teaching. I know that by furthering my education I will learn even more skills and meet more people that will help guide me towards best fulfilling that hope.”



JULIA BECK

*Pewaukee High School
Marquette University*

Julia Beck possess the motivation to push herself to get better at anything she puts her mind to.

“Educators’ core values are essential to being a productive member of society,” Julia wrote. “I believe that I have demonstrated all five of these values, however, the one I’ve illustrated the most is excellence.”

In Julia’s life, excellence has manifested itself in many ways. Her academic excellence is exemplified through maintaining perfect grades throughout high school, completing rigorous AP and honors classes, and scoring a 32 on the ACT. Her athletic excellence is exemplified through her participation on varsity volleyball for three years and varsity track all four years. Her extracurricular excellence is exemplified through volunteering in her church’s nursery for the last six years and being an active participant in service clubs like National Honor Society.

“Displaying excellence is not just something that a person does, it is also something that a person strives for.”

Julia plans to continue striving for excellence as she studies biomedical sciences in the honors program at Marquette University. Although Julia’s career plans are not so solidified yet, she has an inkling that she may want to work in the genetics field.

“I hope that I can use my degree to improve our understanding of genetics and use that to aid in treatments of genetic disorders.”



ALEXIS BETKER

*Washington Park High School
Western Illinois University*

Honesty is the foundation of Alexis Betker's success.

"Honesty is not only one of the core values of Educators, but of my life," Alexis wrote.

In her personal, academic and social life this quality is present as she prioritizes being honest with herself and in her relationships. For Alexis, to be honest means to have courage, and striving to be honest, even amongst difficult circumstances, allows for growth.

"My input of being honest reflects an authentic outcome in every aspect of my life. I must be honest with myself as well as others. Without honesty, I would not have been able to develop into the person I am today. Honesty has allowed me to look at the person I truly am and see my strengths as well as my weaknesses."

Alexis plans on carrying this core value with her on her quest to becoming a physician assistant.

"I hope to make an impact on the world through my community service and helping others while in the medical field."



BROOKLYN BROWN

Brookfield East High School
Howard University

Brooklyn Brown has always been inspired to help her community.

“Throughout my high school journey, whether it be starting a Black Student Union or building a serenity garden, I have been inspired to help my community through a series of tremendous actions,” Brooklyn wrote. “I was always taught at a young age by my mother to give back to the community because they have given so much back to you; a quote I live by.”

In school, Brooklyn started a Black Student Union because she felt there needed to be more representation for people who look just like her. Outside of school, she demonstrated excellence by implementing a serenity garden for her Girl Scout Gold Award.

“These actions did not carry the intention of demonstrating excellence. Instead, a desire to have a positive impact on others. I take full pride in the excellence I have shown throughout my community, but I am also thrilled to see how my abilities positively impact people now and in the future.”

Although Brooklyn has not completely settled on a career choice, she looks forward to exploring the plethora of possibilities that come with studying international business.

“I want to continue to help those who are less fortunate and continue to give back. I also want to explore philanthropic opportunities.”



MADELEINE BUCKLEY

Nicolet High School

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Excellence to Madeleine Buckley means showing resiliency despite adversity.

“I am passionate in everything that I do. I give 110% to my academics and sports because I do not know any other way of doing things. I inevitably pour my heart into anything and everything,” Madeleine wrote.

Madeleine recalls a story where she put all her effort into a lacrosse game against an opponent that was two divisions above her team. Even as their opponent dominated the field, Madeleine did not give up. Instead, she continued to sprint after the ball trying to gain repossession at every opportunity. Even in the face of defeat, Madeline continued to exude excellence and resiliency.

“Every extra hour studying, just like each push to try to repossess the ball in a difficult lacrosse game, will lead me to have a successful life.”

Madeleine plans to become a genetics researcher while using her knowledge of the French language.

“I plan to volunteer my time throughout college and speak out on issues that are close to my heart like climate change and other social justice issues.”



ABIGAIL CHOSSEK

*Wauwatosa West High School
Carroll University*

Abigail Chossek lives her life striving for excellence and has been recognized for this excellence throughout her high school journey.

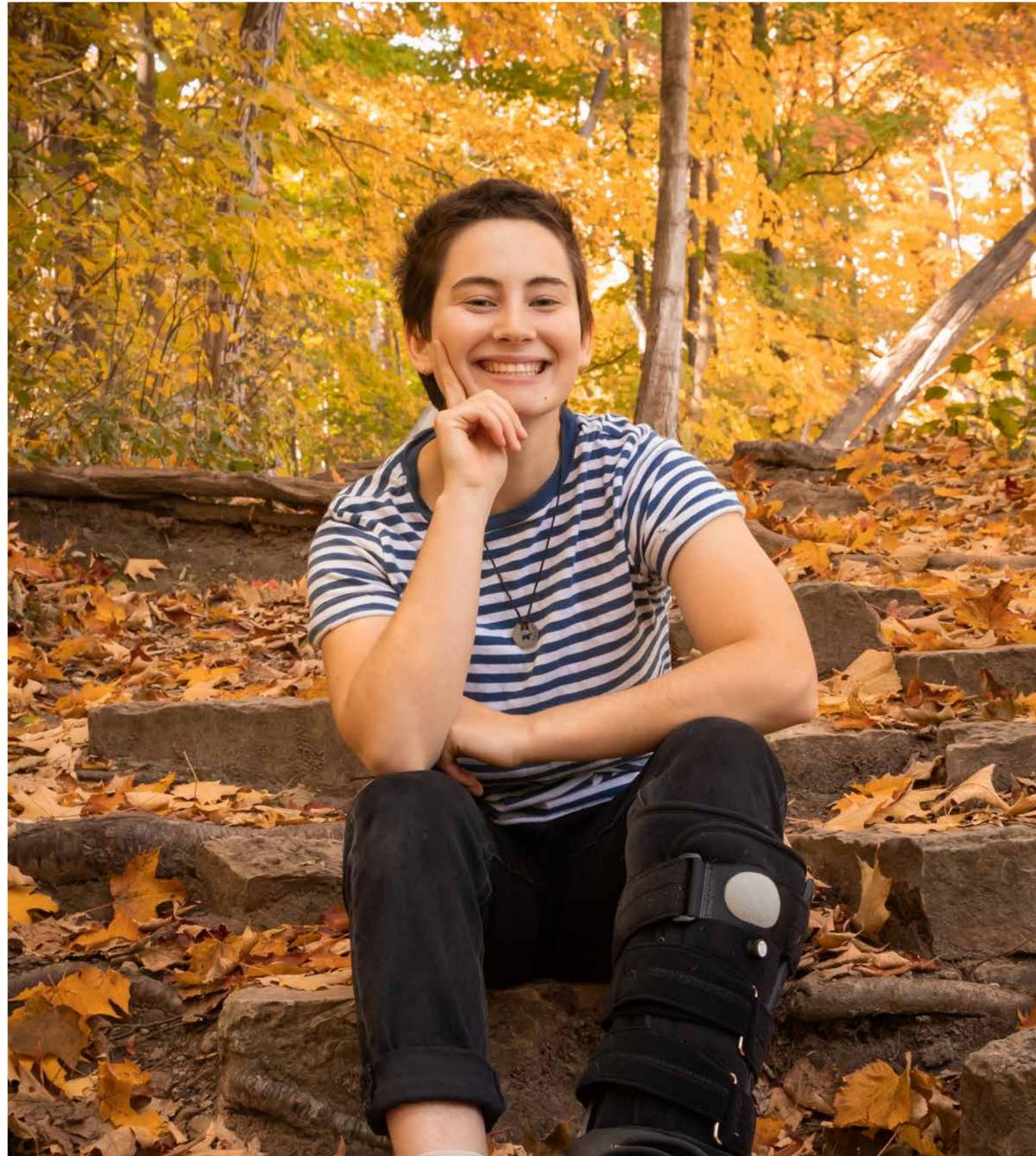
“As a student in the Wauwatosa School District, my excellence can be seen through the Principal’s Award, the Green and White Award, National Honor Society, and being on the honor roll with a 3.98 GPA,” Abigail wrote.

These awards are presented to students who have been recognized for being leaders and striving for academic excellence. Outside of school, she strives for excellence as a well-rounded person through her work as a small business media manager, sports hospitality manager, football team manager, and the president of Wauwatosa West Best Buddies.

“I chose to be a part of these experiences because I knew I could learn about leadership, organization, inclusivity, and apply them to my future as I get my degree in business administration. By striving for excellence in school and through work experiences I set myself up for excellence in my future.”

Abigail plans to use this excellence as a future DI football director of operations.

“After I graduate, I want to make a positive impact on the lives of athletes and sports programs overall. My goal is to help athletes and sports programs achieve all they are capable of.”



MEIRA DOMASH

Tremper High School

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Meira Domash's work ethic and determination propels her forward.

"Executing excellence is not only an Educators value, but it is my way of life. Each day, I plan tasks accordingly to maximize both time and efficiency. With discipline, I recognize that the only person capable of inhibiting my growth and future success is myself," Meira wrote.

As a lifelong learner, she seeks challenging tasks like reciting pi or solving Rubik's Cubes to stimulate and expand her imagination.

"This combination of unwavering discipline, intellectual curiosity, and mental clarity is how I manifest excellence."

Meira will use her unwavering discipline to study neurobiology and Spanish.

"Fascinated by the enigmas of the brain, I aim to do research on the memory portion of the brain, specifically, how language acquisition plays a role in improving memory function. Ultimately, I plan on becoming a doctor and working with organizations like Doctors Without Borders. I hope to travel to Spanish and French-speaking countries as those are the languages I know and love. This way, I can combine my love of language and travel with my desire to assist others on a more accessible, equitable and personal level."



DANIEL DREIFUERST

The Prairie School
University of Notre Dame

Respect has always been important to Daniel Dreifuerst.

“My parents have always shown me the importance of respect,” Daniel wrote.

Respect was also important at the Montessori school Daniel attended where each student had to shake their teacher’s hand every day when arriving to school.

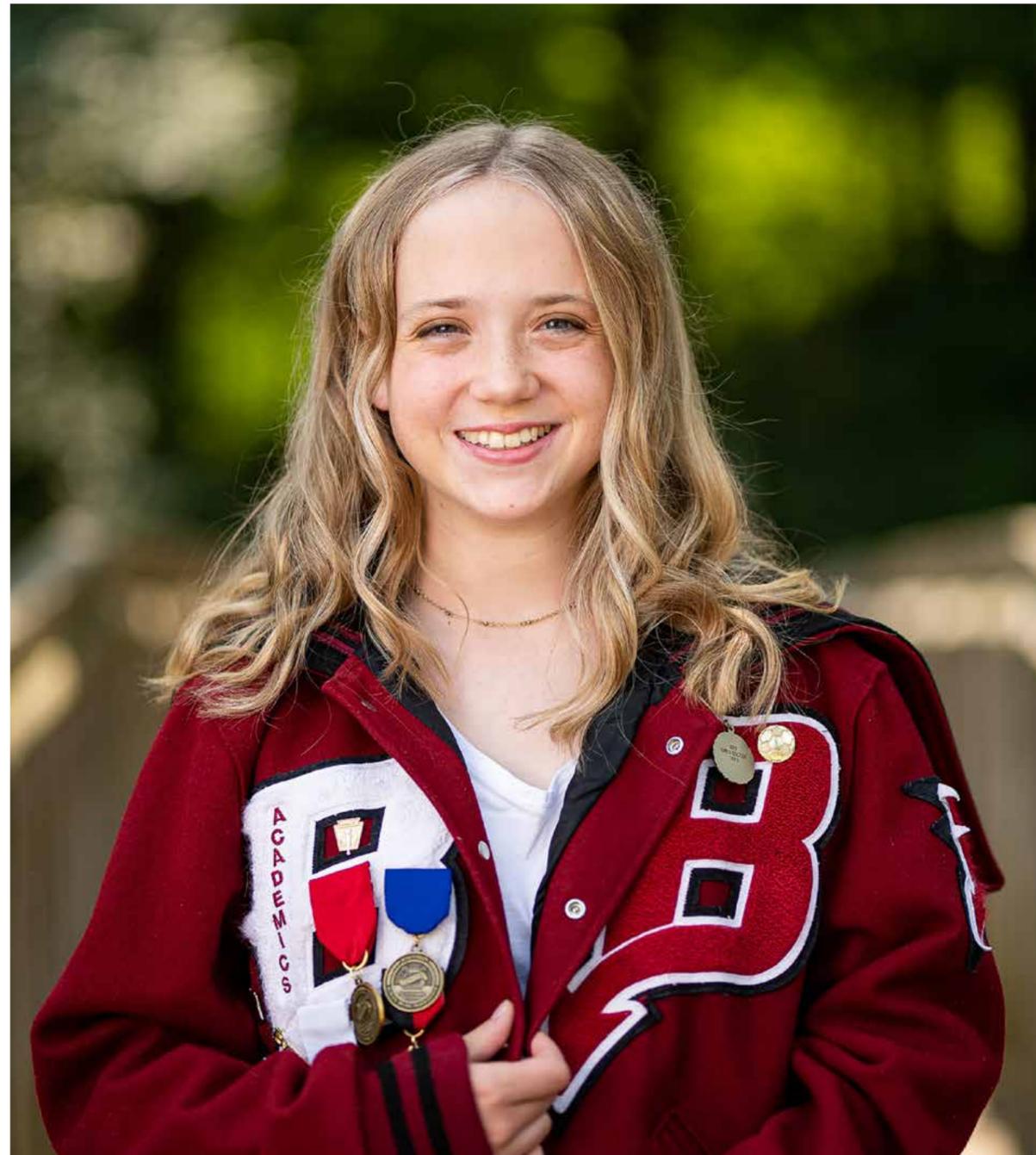
“The importance of respect from that and many other things have stuck with me and made me the person that I am. I try to show respect to everyone no matter age or any other factors. This translates to the way that I play and behave on the soccer team.”

Despite how much Daniel may disagree with his coach’s decisions, he still listens and continues to give all his effort. He also shows this same respect to the referees.

“I try my best to be respectful and not talk back because I am also a referee and know what it is like to be disrespected.”

After graduation from Notre Dame, Daniel plans to work in the investment banking field or a related business field.

“I plan to make a positive impact on the world by using the knowledge that I gain from continuing my education to help mankind.”



KATHERINE FEICK

Bradford High School

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Katherine Feick recalls a time in her life where she struggled with an internal battle and learning to overcome was her biggest challenge.

“I opened myself up to my friends and family, found ways to express myself and escape through music, poetry and sports. When I learned to be honest with myself about the way I was feeling, it allowed me to look at myself in the mirror and say, you may not think you are strong enough, but one day you will and then you’ll truly love who you’ve become,” she wrote.

Katherine plans on using her ability to overcome to help others do the same by working towards becoming a physician assistant.

“Once I graduate from high school, I plan on becoming fully invested in my studies at UW-Madison. My main goal in life is to make a difference and to better the lives of others, as I have always wanted to help people. I plan on going into the medical field and accomplishing this goal.”



EMILY GLUSICK

Mukwonago High School
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Emily Glusick learned that it is always better to stand up for what is right, even if all don't agree.

“Throughout my life I have prioritized the five core values of Educators Credit Union,” Emily wrote. “However, integrity has always struck me as most important.”

Emily's first chance to display integrity in a major way was this past summer. In response to the social justice issues in the U.S., she worked with a group of high school alumni to create a group called Together Mukwonago. Together Mukwonago worked to fight the racial divide in their town and promote education about racial issues.

“Participating in this group was one of the first big steps I took to significantly impact my community. From volunteering in Key Club to being on the school board, I had never felt so passionately about taking action.”

Emily plans to major in biomedical engineering and then work on the research side of biomedical engineering to develop new products.

“Of course, I hope the career field I am going into helps offer me a pathway to helping others through developing medical technology. Until I reach that point, I am planning on staying involved in my community and participating in volunteering and community service.”



JOSHUA GRANT

Menomonee Falls High School Milwaukee School of Engineering

Joshua Grant believes that respect is the first step to understanding others.

“One principle that I strongly value in life is respect,” Joshua wrote. “Whenever I meet someone new, I do not subject them to prejudice because of how they appear or act.”

Instead, Joshua forms his opinion based on interactions and experiences.

“I believe that respect is the first step to understanding others and making us all better people, so that is why I hold it high in my heart.”

Joshua will pursue a degree in computer engineering and then work as a software developer or a cybersecurity technician.

“Through my future career as a software developer or a cybersecurity technician, I will either be developing applications to make people’s lives easier or contributing to the protection of sensitive data on the internet. I have potential plans already to pursue one of these careers in either the healthcare or senior care industry, which is an industry where both the efficiency/ease of use of web/computer applications, and the protection of sensitive patient data are highly needed.”



MAYA GROSER

*Rufus King International High School
University of Minnesota*

From a young age, Maya Groser demonstrated excellence through music and plans to sustain this path in the next chapter of her life.

“I find that striving for excellence in all areas of my life is of utmost importance,” Maya wrote.

This summer she was selected to be a part of the WSMA State Honors Orchestra where she played in the first violin section. She is also the first violin section leader at her high school, where she often leads breakout rooms and helps students with material outside of class. During the coronavirus pandemic, it was a priority to her to share music with as many people as possible by playing rooftop concerts for neighbors and others around. Additionally, she provided lessons for students who did not have a teacher because of coronavirus concerns and restrictions.

“As I enter college and navigate territory unlike anything I have experienced before, I will continue to prioritize and value my successes to achieve excellence.”

Combining her love for music and passion for psychology, Maya plans to pursue a degree in music therapy.

“I intend to continue my education in hopes that I can help others around me, inspire growth, and make the world a better place.”



KATELYN HANNAH

Westosha Central High School
University of Wisconsin-Parkside

In Katelyn Hannah's life, striving to be honest is constant.

"Being honest with those around me has built solid relationships," Katelyn wrote. "Being honest with my friends over time has allowed us to grow closer and trust each other. Honesty allows us to look out for one another."

Katelyn has also learned to be honest when things go badly or when she's having a bad day. Even though she has also learned that not everyone values honesty, she believes that through honesty, we can all help build each other up into the people we strive to be.

"Holding back honesty can lead to more betrayal than anything. Learning from my past has taught me that being honest with people around you can only be beneficial in the long run."

Katelyn plans to major in applied health science and then attend medical school to become a pediatrician or neonatologist.

"After graduation, I hope to make a positive impact on the world by working to help others and my community. I have grown to love community service and hope to better my community through my college experience and future activities."



ELIZABETH HANSTEDT

*William Horlick High School
University of Wisconsin–La Crosse*

Although each of Educators' core values are integrated into Elizabeth Hanstedt's daily life, respect is the most prevalent as she tries to be considerate of herself, others and her surroundings.

"It is in my strongest belief that to respect others, one must respect themselves first," Elizabeth wrote. "As a result, I ensure that I receive the proper amount of quality sleep, food, and exercise. Even just putting the phone away an hour before bed demonstrates an easy way to respect yourself each day. Additionally, respect for the people around you proves one's character. Simple acts like being on time for an event or actively listening during a conversation ensures the people around you feel valued."

"Respect for my surroundings is another way I demonstrate this value. Whether it is making my bed in the morning or graduating from high school, I always want to leave the place better than how I found it."

Elizabeth plans to take biomedical courses and then apply to medical school or a physical therapy graduate program.

"As a person who loves people and the miracle that enables us to live, work and play, I am inspired to serve others by promoting vibrant health. With education comes responsibility. Evaluation guides understanding. Knowledge offers enlightenment. Wisdom produces discernment. Together, they prioritize work for the greater good of all. As a future leader, I will embrace this responsibility and create a better place to live, work and play."



EVAN HERRIGES

Wauwatosa East High School
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Respecting others is something Evan Herriges tries to live by every day.

“All these values often work in unison,” Evan wrote. “Someone who exhibits at least one of these values will often model the others in their everyday life. But, if I had to pick one out of the five, one that is a very important value in my life, it would be respect.”

Evan grew up as a son of a teacher, so showing respect to all his teachers is not only natural, but very important to him.

“Of course, I haven’t gotten along perfectly with every teacher I’ve ever had, but I try to give every one of them the same level of respect that everyone deserves.”

For Evan, respect also coincides with trust, which shows up in how he trusts his coaches to make decisions that are beneficial to the success of the team.

“Learning how to show respect is also still a learning process. When I travelled to Germany, I had to learn how to honor new cultural customs.”

Evan’s future goal is to become a screenwriter for film and television.

“After graduation, I hope I can have an impact by creating interesting work and inspiring people to always help each other.”



GRACE HUNNICUTT

*J.I. Case High School
Carthage College*

Grace Hunnicutt fully immerses herself into everything she does and strives for excellence.

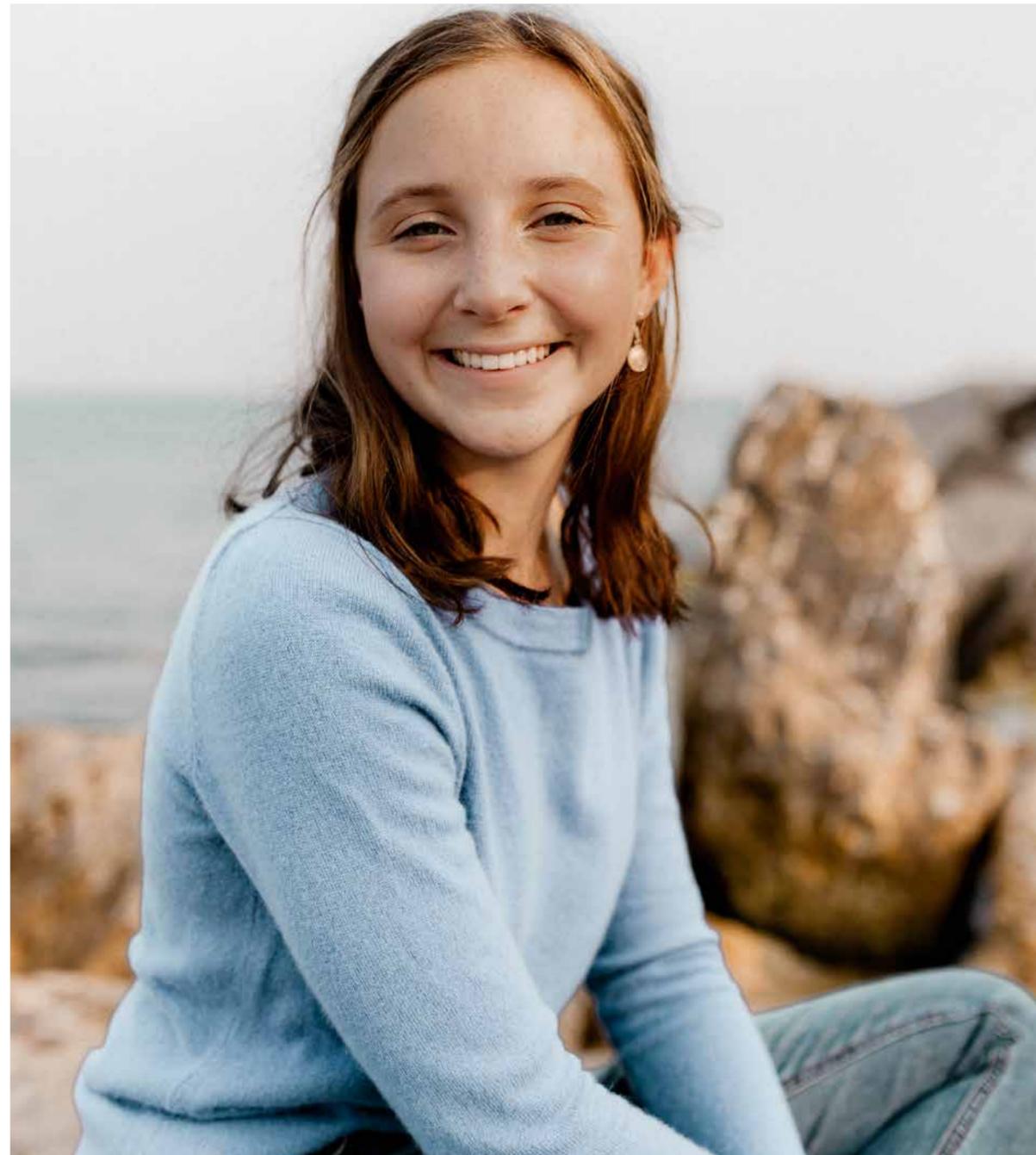
“The Educators core value I demonstrate the most is excellence,” Grace wrote. “I incorporate excellence into everything I do, often without that realization.”

Throughout Grace’s life, specifically her high school career, she constantly strives to do her best while being involved in many activities that require a lot of time and attention. Even with all these activities, she maintains her balance and her high grades.

“I pride myself on my involvement in school, both academically and extracurricularly. I maintain high honor grades and hold many leadership positions in various clubs that allow me to refine and boost my skills while also allowing an opportunity to include and advocate for others. I am a person of goals, short and long term, I shoot for the moon and never let others get me down.”

Grace plans to continue advocating for others by becoming a neonatal intensive care unit or pediatrics nurse after completing her undergraduate degree.

“After graduation, I hope to show the world that no matter what obstacles come your way, through determination, nothing can stop you from achieving your goal. With nursing, I hope to be able to give back, help those that I can, and leave a lasting impact. Even if I just impact one person, it’ll all be worth it.”



FAITH HYLLBERG

*Christian Life School
Grand Canyon University*

Faith Hyllberg's pursuit of excellence extends into every part of her life.

"Being involved in extracurricular activities while maintaining a 4.0+ GPA, I work diligently to demonstrate excellence," Faith wrote.

As a leader in the National Honor Society, Faith holds herself to high standards through scheduling and communicating service options to students that will benefit the community. In her academic life, she maintains excellence by completing tasks ahead of time. She also practices for the basketball season, the softball season, and for concerts with her instrument so that she can perform with excellence on the court, field or stage.

This excellence also extends into her current position as a restaurant hostess. Not only does she show up on time, but she never calls in sick and always fills in for others. This work ethic earned her Front of House Brand Promise Champion of the Month in July 2020.

"I am passionate about performing with excellence in all my endeavors and look forward to carrying this into college and career."

Faith plans to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering on her pursuit to becoming a project manager.

"I would like to help create inventions that benefit all people. I also hope to be generous with what I am blessed with and invest into the lives of foster kids by volunteering."



MADELYN ISHAM

*Rufus King International High School
Columbia University*

Leadership for Madelyn Isham happens on and off the softball field.

“I embody excellence and respect through my leadership position on my softball team,” Madelyn wrote. “Since my sophomore year, I’ve been my team’s captain. It’s not easy being an underclassman seeking the approval and respect of those older than me. But, I have been persistent and patient with my teammates, recognizing that respect is a two-way street.”

For Madelyn, being a captain is more than a title, but something she has longed for since she was a young girl playing summer softball. Because of her passion to be a captain, she has sought to create a family-like environment for her teammates. Outside of organizing games and practices, she also organized team banquets and other social gatherings.

“I demonstrate respect and excellence because I’ve made my leadership position unique to myself. With that, I have been able to be a mentor to my teammates, an asset to my coaches, and a leader in my school community.”

In the fall, Madelyn plans to study architecture and political science. After graduation, she intends to obtain a career that combines her interests in both law and architecture.

“I hope to make a positive impact by simply doing something that can bring joy to others. I think doing something I am passionate about will be reflected in my work, and hopefully bring happiness or change to others. This is my goal because I think everyone deserves a bit of joy each day.”



HAYLEY JAMIOLA

*New Berlin Eisenhower High School
Marquette University*

For Hayley Jamiola, respect is key for any team to succeed.

In high school, Hayley joined the varsity dance team, and she learned to respect coaches, teammates and other teams through listening to opinions and observing the competitive scene. As the routine captain for her senior year, she often met with coaches to discuss choreography changes and current obstacles.

“While they valued my opinion, and vice versa, I respected their final call as coaches,” Hayley wrote.

In competition settings, she learned to respect other teams by saying good luck backstage, applauding winners and respecting the judges’ opinions.

“Dance taught me many lessons. One that I will never forget is how to be respectful.”

Hayley’s future career plans include becoming a computer software engineer and serving in the community.

“I hope to make a positive impact on the world post-graduation through helping underprivileged children get wider access to technology – specifically females. The gender gap in the technology field is large, and there are many companies/schools trying to close the gap. I would love to help partially close the gap whenever possible.”



CARA KRIEN

*Catholic Central High School
Villanova University*

Cara Krien has exhibited excellence in even the most challenging circumstances.

“Educators’ core value of excellence is a goal I strive to reach in everything I do. Particularly, I have always aimed for excellence in academic environments, and despite the crazy circumstances, this past year proved no different,” Cara wrote.

When Cara’s high school switched to virtual learning, she was completely thrown off by the change, and had doubts about her ability to succeed without the structure and extrinsic motivation she had grown accustomed to.

“It was not easy; I struggled to adjust to my new routine of online learning. However, I was able to adapt to my new normal, and my desire for excellence in school drove me to take additional initiative and responsibility for my learning. I found ways to self-motivate and created my own structure through endless lists and a new routine.”

Cara intends to major in biology and then apply to medical school to accomplish her goal of becoming a pediatrician.

“Following graduation, I hope to make a positive impact on the world through my choice of career. One of the reasons pediatrics appealed to me was the ability to help others every day. I won’t exactly change the world, but I will hopefully be able to make each patient’s world a little brighter.”



SOPHIA LAUNDRE

*New Berlin West High School
University of Wisconsin-Madison*

Sophia's natural passion for the environment shows up every day in her current job.

"Over the summer I taught Ella, the girl I watch, the importance of respecting and helping our environment," Sophia wrote.

To achieve her goal of showing Ella how to help the environment, Sophia created two projects that they could enjoy throughout the summer. The first project was to keep the park they frequented, and the path to get there, free from garbage. Anytime they visited the park, they brought bags and gloves to pick up trash along the way.

"By the end of the summer, the path and the park were free from trash and Ella kept proudly talking about how she helped save the animals and plants."

The goal for the second project was to help repopulate the decreasing butterfly population in the area. They found some caterpillars, made a habitat for them, watched them grow and released them.

"I will continue to teach Ella to respect and love our environment so together we can help make the world a better place, even if it takes us one butterfly at a time."

Sophia's passion for helping children will lead her on the path to becoming a pediatrician.

"I hope to make a positive impact on the environment as I strive to live as sustainably as possible. I will also work to help kids feel better and work to make sure they stay healthy and safe."



CHRISTOPHER LIPSCOMB

Nicolet High School
Western Michigan University

Christopher Lipscomb knows that a happier life means being honest with himself and others.

“I appreciate those who are honest with me and I know they value honesty from me,” Christopher wrote. “I have found that trying to lie one’s way through anything only brings anxiety and hurt feelings.”

Christopher was raised by a mother who is an educator which has only further instilled the importance of honesty. Also, being a member of Nicolet High School’s robotics team has also increased his ability to be honest because the team places a heavy emphasis on it.

“As an older member now, I always make sure to be cool and collected with younger members when they make mistakes and own up to them. Even when they are not honest, I try to understand things from their perspective and teach them to be honest in the future.”

Christopher’s goal is to use his cool and collectedness to become a pilot for a major airline.

“I hope to be able to transport people and goods around the world to where they need to go or are needed. I have seriously pondered using my future skills for other things, such as conservation efforts and flying aid into war torn countries or those affected by natural disasters.”



KELSEY MILLER

New Berlin West High School
University of Wisconsin–La Crosse

By upholding integrity through strong morals, Kelsey Miller has created a lasting impact that goes beyond the classroom.

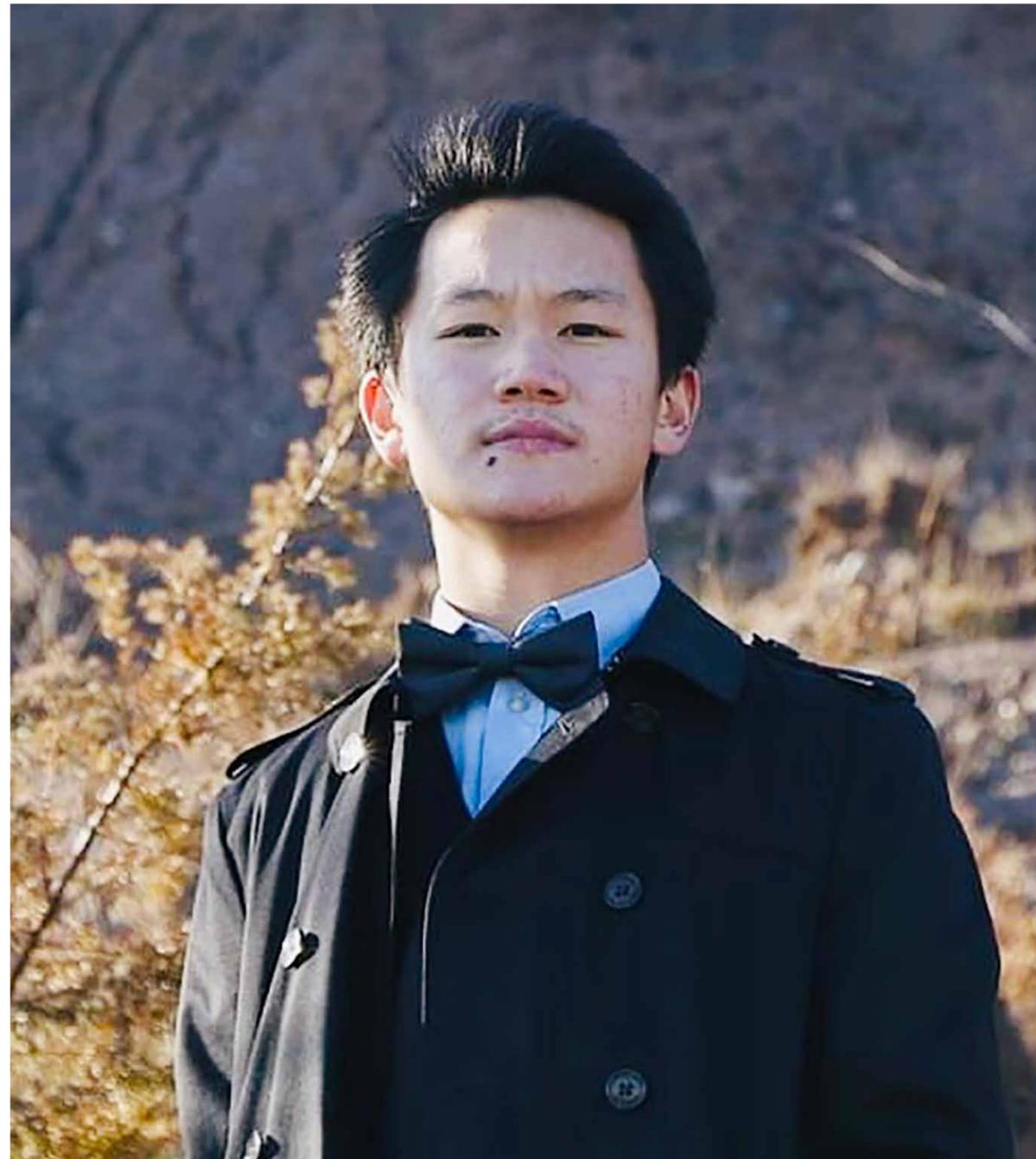
“Demonstrating integrity for who I am and what I believe in, I have taken actions to ensure that everybody is treated with respect,” Kelsey wrote.

Throughout high school, Kelsey was involved in different groups like Best Buddies and a student equity group that promoted equity and inclusion. As the president and founder of her school’s Best Buddies chapter, she formed friendships with those faced with physical and mental disabilities. Through these relationships she was able to learn how to better respect those with disabilities.

“Furthermore, being a part of the student equity group has allowed me to help better represent those of a minority within my school, from creating a diverse curriculum to celebrating Black History Month for the first time in my school’s history. Being able to fight for equality for those who may not be able to fight for it themselves is important and exhibits my passion for helping others.”

Kelsey will continue to promote equity and inclusion as she studies elementary education and then becomes a first or second grade teacher.

“I think that the future of our world so greatly depends on the youth, and I hope to inspire positive and mindful changemakers, along with knowledgeable and responsible students!”



MENG MOUA

*Rufus King International High School
University of Wisconsin-Madison*

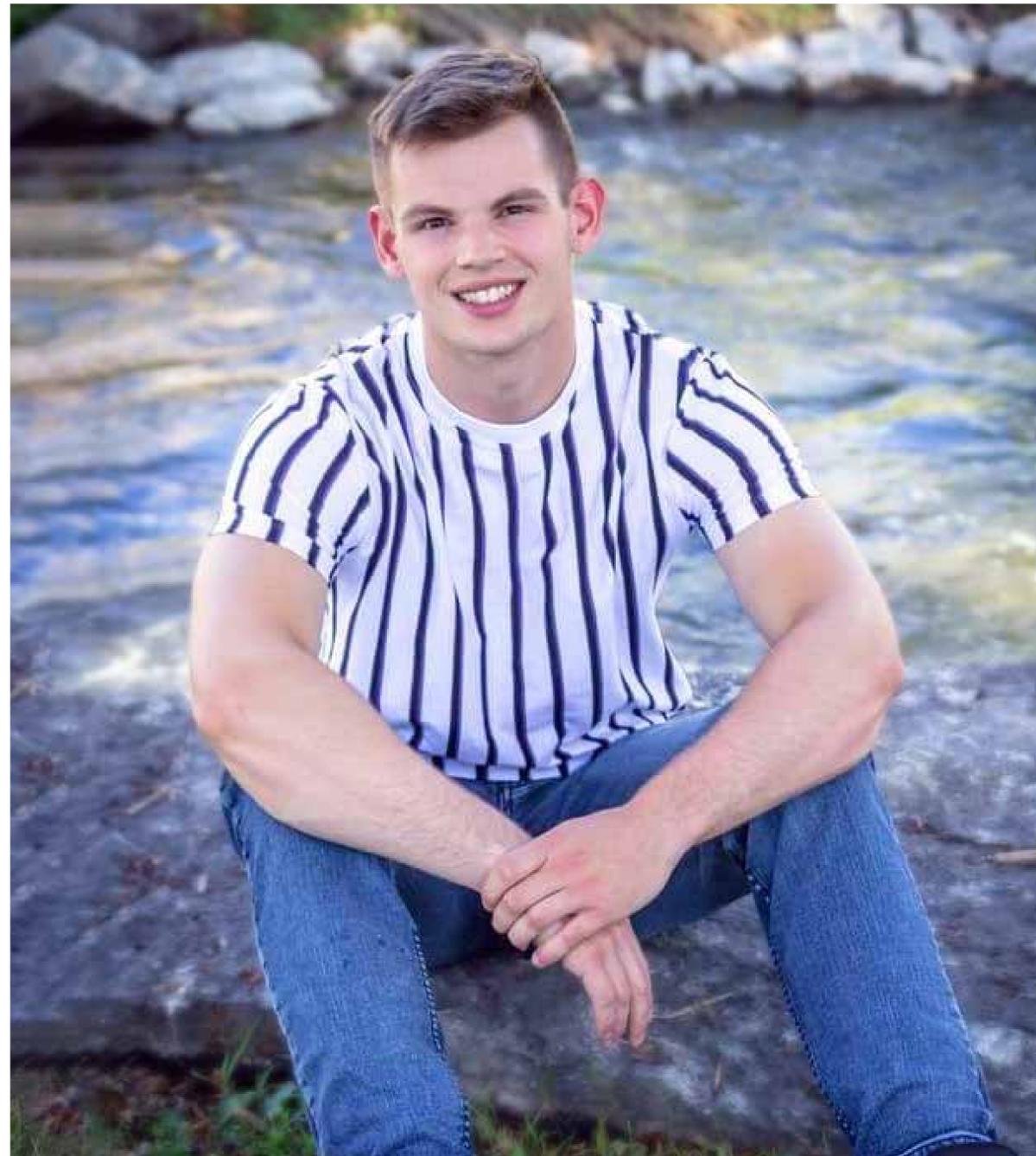
For Meng Moua, respect is not just a skill set but an important part of his life.

Meng recalls a story where his boss complimented him on his appreciation for all the things he does. At Meng's job, he is the only associate to hold the door open and wait for the managers during closing. However, these niceties are just a part of Meng's character.

"It was merely proper etiquette. At least, that was what my parents had taught me growing up in a non-traditional American household," Meng wrote. "Respect was not a skill set but an integral part of getting along with seven siblings and each person in our very diverse society."

Meng plans to study mechanical engineering and then obtain a master's degree in engineering to gain the necessary knowledge to work for a prominent technology company that is changing the future of our society and world.

"After I graduate from college, I plan to gain insight about the engineering world through employment. Ultimately, I hope to start my own technology company that will create both the necessary jobs that are adept to the challenges of time and yield dollars for me to perform philanthropic actions such as funding sustainable developmental abroad and giving back to my local community. Possibly I could also grant scholarship dollars to help curious people pursue their passionate post-secondary endeavors."



JACE OCKER

Waukesha North High School
Marquette University

Jace Ocker believes that learning is the most important aspect of growing as a person.

“In my 17 years of life, I have always strived for excellence,” Jace wrote.

Whether it was playing one of four sports or waking up early to get started on his schoolwork for the day, Jace has always been very passionate about his education. Throughout his high school career, he maintained over a 4.0 GPA and held the highest rigor of classes. His primary focus in the previous two years has been on computer science.

“For the last couple of years, my true passion for computers has allowed me to begin innovating useful software, creating the football website for my team, developing video games, and designing my own eCommerce platform.”

In the future, Jace plans to use his passion for computers to study computer science and then obtain an MBA from Marquette University.

“I hope to make a positive impact on the world by creating/inventing a new software that will enable everyone to live an easier and more stress-free life.”



BUTOYI ODETTA

*Rufus King International High School
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee*

Butoyi Odetta learned to be honest no matter what, even if success is at stake.

Butoyi recalls a story that could have put her 4.0 GPA at risk. During the second semester of one of her classes, she started off with a D. However, when she received a notification that she earned straight A's on a project, she knew there had been a mistake. Instead, of staying quiet and keeping the A, she chose to be honest and inform the teacher of the mix up.

"It would have been easy for me to stay quiet about the mistake, but I knew that if I made the decision to stay quiet, that decision would forever haunt me," Butoyi wrote.

This integrity resonated well with the teacher, and Butoyi was able to implement the suggestions from the original project into an additional assignment.

"Looking back at this experience, I am prouder of my integrity, than I am of the 'A' I received."

Butoyi plans to utilize this integrity as she studies healthcare administration and health policy.

"I plan to one day manage a healthcare facility that serves marginalized patients, making healthcare more accessible to those who are disadvantaged."



MARISSA POLZIN

Union Grove High School
Lawrence University

Honesty, integrity, fairness, respect and excellence are all woven throughout Marissa Polzin's actions.

"Honesty, integrity, fairness, respect, excellence – all are so closely interconnected; isolation of one does not occur without removal of all others," Marissa wrote.

Marissa lives with honesty when she holds herself accountable for her actions and what she says. She lives with integrity when she acts against the prejudices of others. She lives by fairness when she ensures she is open to all sides of the argument before making a decision. She lives by respect when she listens carefully before she speaks. She lives by excellence as she continues her work of spreading kindness and positivity to every person.

"Overtly and covertly, these five values are an integral part of my personality and the person I still aspire to be."

Marissa's future includes studying chemistry or biology and conducting scientific research in the biomedical or environmental field.

"After graduation, spreading kindness and continuing to speak out and fight for justice will be my goals for making a positive impact on my community and the world!"



TALISSA RODRIGUEZ

Brookfield Academy
Drake University

Throughout high school, Talissa Rodriguez realized that everyone's path to success is different.

"The transition from middle school to high school was difficult in both academic and social aspects," Talissa wrote. "I struggled with adapting to the new curriculum as well as just finding friends who I could relate to and comfortably go to when I needed help."

This transition became so difficult, Talissa began to have doubts about if she could be successful. However, she overcame these thoughts and realized that she is capable, willing, and ready to put in the work.

"As a sign of accomplishment, I received the Female Academic Merit Award at the end of my freshman year. The most rewarding part was my ability to believe that I deserved the award. From then on, I learned that with continuous effort and genuine determination, I was more than capable."

Talissa's future includes leaning on her genuine determination to earn a doctorate in pharmacy and use this knowledge and training to help make an impact on those in her community.



BENJAMIN RUMMLER

Burlington High School
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Benjamin Rummler's life showcases his willingness to learn and his dedication to excellence.

"A culmination of efforts and excellence best reflects one's willingness to learn," Benjamin wrote. "Learning is the key to progress and achievement in any situation. One's commitment to learning is most regularly and formally reflected in the classroom, but certainly is not confined to such a particular setting. Achievements in numerous exploits reflect my commitments to excellence and learning."

Benjamin's drive for academic excellence enabled him to become an AP scholar with distinction, third in class rank, and be chosen as a Racine County Scholar Athlete. Outside of school, his excellence is exemplified in his promotion from assistant server to server at his job.

"By virtue of learning to and being willing to lead, I was nominated as captain of my volleyball team for two consecutive years. Excellence depends upon learning, and I believe that my devotion to learning best demonstrates my commitment to excellence."

Benjamin plans to work as an actuary and continue to volunteer in the community through involvement in activities like youth sports.



KATHRYN SMITH

*St. Catherine's High School
University of Arizona*

Kathryn Smith lives out the core values of respect, excellence and integrity.

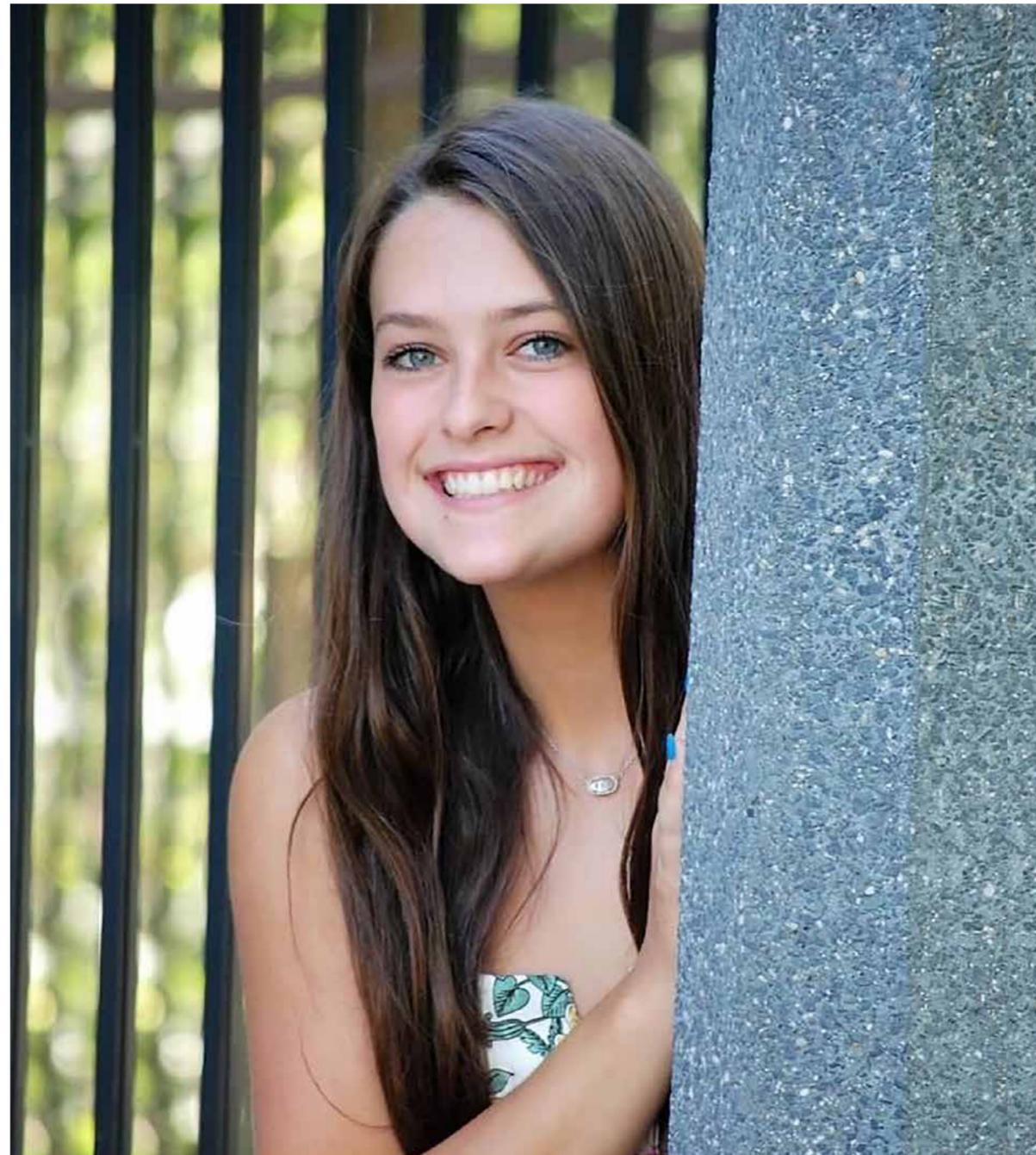
“Being respectful is important in my large family, where we share and listen to differing views,” Kathryn wrote. “Second, achieving excellence in both academics and extracurriculars is an area where we also have a shared value.”

This excellence is evident in her tennis career where she placed 6th in the recent WIAA State Tennis Tournament and is known as an honest player that demonstrates integrity no matter if she wins or loses. Off the court, these core values have helped her earn a 4.0 GPA.

“Working hard and taking the time to give your very best is what set me up for excellence.”

In the future, Kathryn will work towards a career in speech pathology or linguistics by studying linguistics and taking courses in STEM.

“I hope to make a positive impact in my Tucson community by getting involved in one or more of the many clubs offered on campus at the University of Arizona, such as the Associated Students of the University of Arizona. This student run program specializes in organizing volunteer opportunities for students.”



KADY STIGLER

Menomonee Falls High School United States Naval Academy

Kady Stigler carries herself with integrity and honesty which leads her to have uncomfortable, but necessary, conversations.

Kady recalls an experience she had demonstrating integrity and respect on her high school volleyball team. One of the teammates was not treating others respectfully. So, as captain, she scheduled a meeting with the coach to discuss how to solve this situation. She eventually talked with the teammate and detailed how her actions were causing harm to the rest of the team.

“This experience proved that I am confident to stand up for someone that can’t speak up for themselves and will discuss issues with peers that are uncomfortable but necessary. I felt that my moral compass led me in the right direction and emphasized to me that I carry myself with integrity and honesty.”

Kady plans to lean on her moral compass as she joins the Navy and becomes a pilot. After her service, she intends to earn a business degree.

“My positive impact on the world that I hope to achieve will be to serve my country and make my country proud. I hope to help so many people all over the world by making the world a safer place to live in through my naval service.”



LAUREL SUTHERLAND

*J. I. Case High School
University of Wisconsin-Madison*

Laurel Sutherland has a personal belief that she should never give anything less than 110% on something important to her.

“I strive to achieve excellence in everything that I do,” Laurel wrote.

Laurel has demonstrated excellence in her current job position, social life, and most importantly in her academics where she has been a straight-A student throughout her entire high school experience. As a member of several sports teams, clubs and organizations, she goes above and beyond to put in the extra work and be a valuable member in any way possible.

“It is because of this passion and drive that I was made president of my school’s student government this year, as one example.”

Laurel plans to study biology as a pathway to becoming an obstetrician. As an obstetrician, Laurel hopes to help women through an important part of their lives and educate people on personal health.

“I know it’s a lot of work, but I think that it would be a very fulfilling career that would give me the opportunity to work with many new people and help those in need.”



KAYLA TRAXLER

Harborside Academy
University of Wisconsin–La Crosse

No matter the circumstances, Kayla Traxler always does her best to provide excellent service in her current job position.

Because the restaurant where Kayla works is frequented by many residents of an assisted living and senior care facility, many of the customers have a vision impairment or a speech impediment. However, regardless of who the customer is, she has always made sure to treat everyone equally and accommodate them in any way she can.

“Providing my customers with the best service no matter the circumstances showed a level of respect,” Kayla wrote. “I have always done my best to make sure that my customers were well taken care of and happy with the service that I provided.”

Kayla will use this servant leadership to ultimately study how viruses work, and how she can keep the people in her community safe from them. She will major in microbiology and then pursue a master’s degree in virology, and eventually earn a PhD.

“Although these may seem like big aspirations, I know that through dedication I will be able to accomplish them.”



OLIVIA VOGE

*Union Grove High School
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point*

What makes honesty truly valuable to Olivia Voge is its humility.

“I am sarcastic. Throughout middle school, I was praised for being brutally honest,” Olivia wrote. “Their eyebrows raised, their jaws dropped, and their throats chuckled when this typically quiet girl delivered a sharp remark.”

Needless to say, Olivia voiced her true opinion in a way that no one else did. However, what she thought was innocent humor, turned out to be hurtful to others. To help her understand the impact of words, her pastor assigned a verse of scripture that urged her to speak with gentleness and respect.

“The truth is most constructive when you’re giving a compliment or feedback, reflecting and setting goals, nurturing a relationship, confronting tough issues. It’s genuine. Now, I tell the truth in love. But don’t worry, I’m still witty.”

In the fall, Olivia will be able to continue using her truthful, but gentle feedback as she begins her studies to become a psychologist.

“I hope to contribute to a more compassionate and tolerant world through a better public understanding of mental health.”



LYDIA ZAJICHEK

*Ronald Reagan High School
University of Wisconsin-Madison*

Lydia Zajicheck has a desire to be an advocate and ally.

“On May 25th, 2020, my family gazed at the television in disbelief and witnessed another black man’s life taken by the police,” Lydia wrote. “This is not new to the black community. On August 28, 2020, my feet stood near the reflecting pool of the Lincoln Memorial to commemorate the 57th anniversary of the March on Washington. My feet stood where thousands of people stood before me to fight for equal rights. At that moment, I realized my zip code not only made me resilient, but I experienced the emergence of my untapped internal power. My personal inclination has changed from a place of shame to one of desire to be an advocate and ally who will do the work to position myself to be a person of influence. This was not only the spark that lit fire to a new moment of social justice work we have seen develop across our nation, this moment ignited a spark in me. A day I fought for fairness in solidarity for my brothers, my cousins, my uncles, my mom, and the black community as a whole.”

Lydia plans to use this spark to study biology and become a gynecologist to create a safe space for all women no matter their race or ethnicity.

“My inclination comes from the vitalness for this change in healthcare. I want the women in my family to have faith in the medical field. To change the system, I have to put a dent in the system. Women deserve control.”