



PRESS RELEASE

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Merrimack Valley Credit Union Awards \$15,000 in College Scholarships

Organization recognized 15 high school students for academic success and community involvement in virtual ceremony on June 8

Lawrence, Mass. (June 11, 2020) – [Merrimack Valley Credit Union](#) awarded \$15,000 in college scholarships earlier this week, recognizing 15 outstanding high school students from its field of membership both north and south of Boston. The students were honored during a virtual ceremony on June 8, where they celebrated with family and members of Merrimack Valley Credit Union’s senior management team. Over the past four years, Merrimack Valley Credit Union has awarded 36 students with nearly \$45,000 in scholarships to pursue higher education.

“Choosing the 15 scholarship recipients was especially difficult this year, as we had so many impressive applicants,” said John Howard, President & CEO, Merrimack Valley Credit Union. “The scholarship recipients were selected because of their commitment to education and to their community both in and out of school. While many had to modify how they demonstrated that commitment in the past few months – through remote learning and finding other ways to help in the community – we are confident that the flexibility and resiliency they have shown these past few months will prove useful not only in college, but also in their careers.”

The organization received 178 applications from students at 66 different high schools located across the two regions. Students were scored on their academic performance, school and community involvement, work experience, letters of recommendation and their essays about what they would do if they ran Merrimack Valley Credit Union.

Each of the 2020 recipients will receive \$1,000 scholarship to pursue higher education:

- **Grace Baker**, from Hampton, N.H., graduated from Winnacunnet High School and will attend Fairfield University to study nursing.
- **Shane Grant**, from Walpole, Mass., graduated from Walpole High School and will attend Northeastern University to study environmental economics.
- **Sydney Gregory**, from Andover, Mass., graduated from Andover High School and will attend Johns Hopkins University to study chemistry.
- **Amy Guggenberger**, from North Andover, Mass., graduated from North Andover High School and will attend Boston College to study applied psychology and human development.
- Merrimack Valley Credit Union member **Anooshey Ikhlas**, from Bridgewater, Mass., graduated from Bridgewater-Raynham High school and will attend Tufts University to study biopsychology.
- Merrimack Valley Credit Union member **Samuel Kierstead**, from Plymouth, Mass., graduated from Plymouth South High School and will attend Worcester Polytechnic Institute to study mechanical engineering.
- Merrimack Valley Credit Union member **Alexander McDougall**, from Newburyport, Mass., graduated from Newburyport High School and will attend Rochester Institute of Technology to study electrical engineering.
- **Jack Mumley**, from Boxford, Mass., graduated from Masconomet Regional High School and will attend Rochester Institute of Technology to study computer science.
- **Kaila Nelson**, from Haverhill, Mass., graduated from Haverhill High School and will attend the University of Massachusetts at Amherst to study economics.
- **Angela Patric**, from Newburyport, Mass., graduated from Newburyport High School and will attend Clark University to study Psychology.
- Merrimack Valley Credit Union member **Kacya Polanco**, from Lawrence, Mass., graduated from Lawrence High School and will attend the Massachusetts College of Art and Design to study fashion design.
- **Patrick Rak**, from Quincy, Mass., graduated from Quincy High School and will attend Harvard University to study economics and mathematics.
- **Jaden Ryan**, from Norwood, Mass., graduated from Norwood High School and will attend Elon University to study economics.

- **Dorothee Surprenant**, from Fairhaven, Mass., graduated from Fairhaven High School and will attend the College of Charleston for international studies.
- **Julia Tardugno**, from Methuen, Mass., graduated from Methuen High School and will attend Assumption College to study secondary education.

For more information about Merrimack Valley Credit Union, visit <https://www.mvcu.com/>.



Caption: Kacya Polanco, from Lawrence, Mass., is one of the 15 outstanding high school students to receive a \$1,000 scholarship from Merrimack Valley Credit Union. Polanco graduated from Lawrence High School and will attend the Massachusetts College of Art and Design to study fashion design.



Caption: Anoooshey Ikhlas, from Bridgewater, Mass., is one of the 15 outstanding high school students to receive a \$1,000 scholarship from Merrimack Valley Credit Union. Ikhlas graduated from Bridgewater-Raynham High school and will attend Tufts University to study biopsychology.



Caption: Jaden Ryan, from Norwood, Mass., is one of the 15 outstanding high school students to receive a \$1,000 scholarship from Merrimack Valley Credit Union. Ryan graduated from Norwood High School and will attend Elon University to study economics.

About Merrimack Valley Credit Union

Merrimack Valley Credit Union is a state-chartered community credit union with more than \$1 billion in assets. Merrimack Valley Credit Union serves anyone who lives, works, volunteers, or attends school in the Merrimack Valley region, and through its Bridgewater Credit Union division, Barnstable, Bristol, Norfolk or Plymouth counties. Merrimack Valley Credit Union offers a wide range of savings and loan products to meet the financial needs of its members, and has 10 branch locations in Bridgewater, Fairhaven, Haverhill, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover, Plymouth, and Quincy, Mass., and Plaistow and Seabrook, N.H.

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