



# FOUNDER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2014

Pat Scalera | CEO, NYRWA

Congratulations to the five recipients of the 2014 Founder Scholarships. The New York Rural Water Association provides five students with \$500.00 each to help defray the costs of tuition, books, or room and board at college. Although we received numerous excellent student applications from across the state, only five are selected to receive the one-time grant, one from each region within the state representing a member system.



**From the White Plains Region:**

**Samantha DeBellis**

Residing in the Village of Brewster, Samatha will be attending a four year college for Business Administration this fall. In High School Samantha is a member of the Brewster Varsity Swim team as Head Captain, involved with Students against Cancer, a member of the National Honor Society and a volunteer tutor for three 7th grade students. She also received the Senator Greg Ball Certificate of Merit. She states that at a very young age she was taught that nothing in this world is handed to you and she has taught herself to always live by the phrase "never give up".

**From the Capital Region: Sean Duffey**

Residing in the City of Watervliet, Sean will be attending the University of Rhode Island this fall to study Marine Biology due to his interest in water, especially our oceans, lakes, streams and ponds. Sean's father was a Water Treatment Plant Operator, so he grew up with the knowledge that the careful treatment of water is the most vital commodity in a society. In his senior year in High School he enrolled in physics, pre-calculus, and forensics for science and math. He was also the Captain of the Varsity Basketball Team and volunteered for regional food banks. Sean also received the science award in his senior year.



**From the Northeast Central Region:**

**Jacqueline Novak**

Residing in the Village of Pulaski, Jacqueline anticipates attending Clarkson College this fall to study Environmental Engineering. She has volunteered and worked with the NYS

Dept. of Environmental Conservation and the Nature Conservancy and thoroughly enjoyed her experiences. As she pursues her future career in engineering, she hopes to graduate with a degree in Environmental Engineering as well as two minors in areas with a focus on Conservation and Renewable Resources Engineering. Eventually, her goal is to use her knowledge and skills to conduct research around the world, working to create new methods of conserving the earth's resources and protecting our natural world.

**From the Finger Lakes Region: Erin Cornish**



Residing within the Troupsburg Water District, Erin will be attending Erie Community College this fall to study Occupational Therapy, and will continue on to the University of Buffalo for her Master's Degree. She dreams of living in the Southern Tier of New York and being able to work with children to help them grow and develop into great members of

society. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Foreign Language Club, Soccer, Basketball, Softball, AAA Basketball, Prom Committee, and the list goes on.

**From the Buffalo Region:**

**Thomas Patterson**

Residing in the Village of Cattaraugus, Thomas is planning to attend a four year college majoring in Technology Management. He states that his largest goal in preparation for his future is to have as many skills as possible to be marketable. While pursuing his degree, he is also working towards obtaining both state water and wastewater certifications. At this time, he is enrolled and working through courses to obtain his class IIA and D water certifications and upon completion, will begin on his wastewater certification. He is in the midst of obtaining a NYS Class B CDL, as well as, a railroading engineers license and conductors card. He works part-time on the New York & Lake Erie Railroad as well as working summers for the Village of Cattaraugus.



NYRWA wishes to thank every applicant for applying and encourage you to apply again in the future. We extend our best wishes to all students in achieving their future endeavors. 💧💧💧