



News Release

Office of the Dutchess County Executive

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Steinhaus Celebrates Youth Achievement

Poughkeepsie...Dutchess County Executive William R. Steinhaus celebrated commitment of local youth volunteers and teachers as well as the accomplishments of more than forty young people at the *Dutchess County Youth Board Annual Luncheon* today at Dutchess Community College.

County Executive Steinhaus said, “The Youth Excellence Awards represent what a great community we have here in Dutchess County. These awards celebrate the achievement of our youth and pay tribute to the adults who have gone above and beyond to make our young people shine.”

Each year, the Youth Board honors Dutchess County youth who have overcome significant challenges in their lives, improved their academic performance or volunteered for community service. The young people honored often lack effective support systems, face physical or emotional health issues or perhaps exhibited delinquent behavior at some time in the past.

The County Executive’s YEA! Awards were designed to celebrate these young people’s ability to learn, renew and recreate themselves in the face of change, challenge or adverse conditions in order to move forward with their lives. Without these awards, the improved performance of many of these young people may be otherwise overlooked.

County Executive Steinhaus presented 43 young people with the *County Executive's Youth Excellence Awards* (YEA). Each student has been nominated by local schools or agencies in one of the following categories: *Most Significant Improvement in Overall Performance*, *Success Despite Difficult Odds* and *Volunteer or Community Service*. A complete list of the award recipients is enclosed.

Four students were each awarded \$1,500 YEA Scholarships to Dutchess Community College provided in part by the Town of Poughkeepsie Police Benevolent Association and the Dutchess County Youth Board Endowment Fund. The four scholarship recipients were:

<u>Student:</u>	<u>Nominated by:</u>	<u>For:</u>
Abigail Agustin	DC Youth Services Unit	Success Despite Difficult Odds
Shevon Allen	Dover High School	Success Despite Difficult Odds
Chelsea Orts	Roy C. Ketcham High School	Success Despite Difficult Odds
Jessenya Rosario	Hudson River Housing, River Haven	Success Despite Difficult Odds

The Dutchess County Youth Board also recognized several adults who have supported the efforts of these young people by providing caring support and encouragement. Three youth workers were honored in the following categories:

Professional Teacher Award

Susan Birchman, Joseph D'Aquanni West Road Intermediate School

Professional Youth Worker Awards

Jason Maietta, Town of Fishkill Recreation Department

Dorothy O. Lasday Award for Volunteerism

Arlene Larsen, volunteer at the Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse

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Photo enclosed below.



*The 2009 YEA youth and adult award recipients
with Dutchess County Executive William R. Steinhaus (right)..*

2009 County Executive Youth Excellence Award Recipients

Most Significant Improvement in Overall Performance

Student:

Jason Alfonso
 Susann Bendheim
 Jenna Finger
 Laura Gieseler
 Alyssa Gonzalez
 William Lewis
 Corey Rawles
 Brenden Robustelli
 Antonio Emilio Shanks, Jr.
 Corey VanBergen
 Moriah Walters
 Romain Williams

Nominated by:

Mill Street Loft Habilidad Program
 Millbrook High School
 John Jay High School
 Arlington High School
 DC Youth Bureau, Youth Services Unit
 Roy C. Ketcham High School
 Orville Todd Middle School
 Webutuck High School
 DC BOCES Alternative High School
 Orchard View Alternative High School
 Mill Street Loft, Project AWARE
 Cornell Cooperative Extension Green Teen Program -
 Poughkeepsie

Success Despite Difficult Odds

Student:

Nominated by:

Kayla Battle	Cornell Cooperative Extension Green Teen Program - Beacon
Keith Bennett	Cornell Cooperative Extension, ACT for Youth Initiative
Cherokee Bishop	Eugene Brooks Middle School
Aaron Croulet	DC BOCES Alternative High School
Taylor DeSario	Orville Todd Middle School
Alexa Espinoza	Linden Avenue Middle School
Tory Finfinis	LaGrange Middle School
Brian Hand	DC Youth Bureau, Youth Services Unit
Arturo Juarez	Mill St. Loft Habilidad Program
Sabrina Keto	F.D. Roosevelt High School
Angelica Leon	Orville Todd Middle School
Steven Meddaugh	Mental Health America in Dutchess County
Katherine Pena	DC Youth Bureau, Youth Services Unit
Rashad Ricketts	Poughkeepsie Middle School
Yesenia Santos-Vasquez	Millbrook High School
Sean Scott	Orchard View Alternative High School
Jason Seay	Dutchess Youth Career Works
Te'Natra Settles	Astor Adolescent Day Treatment Program
Jasmyn Smith	Spackenkill High School
Eddie Taylor	DC Youth Services Unit, Project Return
Tajai TAYLOR	Poughkeepsie High School
Amanda Vermilyea	Arlington High School

Volunteer or Community Service

Student:

Nominated by:

Kristina Biszick	Orchard View Alternative High School
Shannon Fiore	Orville Todd Middle School
Takneesha Shorte	Mill St. Loft, PASSWORD Program
Angeala Weinacht	Hudson River Housing, River Haven Transitional Living Community
Alicia Wilson	Battered Women's Services of Family Services, Inc.

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