

PRESS RELEASE

Educational Council of Passaic County ♦ 501 River Street, Paterson, New Jersey 07524 ♦ (973) 569-2110 ♦ Fax: (973) 754-0241

For Immediate Release: June 2024

Contact: Office of the Executive County Superintendent of Schools (Johanny A. Casillas)

EDUCATIONAL COUNCIL OF PASSAIC COUNTY – 2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Educational Council of Passaic County, a non-profit organization consisting of the Executive County Superintendent of Schools and the presidents and vice presidents of educational organizations, was formed to provide a forum for public education issues and to establish continual cooperation in promoting effective education within schools. One of the Council’s goals is to ensure that all our students are given the opportunity to continue their education and pursue their dreams; since the 1980s, the Council has raised thousands of dollars and awarded hundreds of scholarships to high school seniors in Passaic County.

This year, we are pleased to announce the awarding of fifteen (15) - \$1,000 scholarships for the “Class of 2024.” Due to the continued support of our Commemorative Journal publication and the financial generosity from our 2023 Gold Sponsors: ***New Jersey Education Association, Passaic County Association of School Business Officials, Passaic County Curriculum Consortium, Passaic County Education Associations, and VISIONS Federal Credit Union***, we can provide financial assistance to fifteen of our high school seniors graduating this June 2024.

Please join the Council as we congratulate the following fifteen (15) - 2024 Scholarship Award recipients:

ALL CATEGORIES (\$1,000.00) <i>Scholarships not listing a sponsor are made possible through the proceeds of our Commemorative Journal issue 6/2023</i>	
Dennis Ackerman	Butler High School Major: Fire Science (Passaic County Community College)
Eleny Gervacio	Clifton High School Major: Accounting (Rutgers University)
Nigel Jennings	College Achieve Charter School Major: Business (Passaic County Community College) Sponsor: <i>Passaic County Association of School Business Officials</i>
Cristian Amaya Pena	Hawthorne High School Major: Accounting (Rutgers University)
Kieran Federici	Lakeland Regional High School Major: Nursing (The College of New Jersey)
Michelle Flores	Passaic High School Major: Art Teacher (William Paterson University) Sponsor: <i>Passaic County Education Associations</i>

Natalia Stephenson	P.C. Manchester Regional High School Major: Psychology (The College of New Jersey)
Hannia Jazmin Colon Valdez	Passaic County Technical Vocational Schools Major: Business/Finance (New York University)
May Billek	Passaic Valley Regional High School Major: Finance (Virginia Tech)
Dareen Abuhammad	Passaic Arts and Science Charter School Major: Education (Rutgers University) Sponsor: <i>Passaic County Curriculum Consortium</i>
Lizzie Huaranga	Paterson Charter School for Science & Technology Major: Nursing (Passaic County Community College)
Hector Salvador Sosa	John F. Kennedy High School Major: Education (Kean University) Sponsor: <i>New Jersey Education Association</i>
Matthew Peterson	Pompton Lakes High School Major: Police Officer (Passaic County Community College)
Augustus (AJ) Delfini	Wayne Hills High School Major: Business (Rowan University) Sponsor: <i>VISIONS Federal Credit Union</i>
Ava Murphy	West Milford High School Major: Music (Rowan University)

2025 Scholarship Program Update

Fundraising for the annual scholarship program is imperative, and the Council’s goal is to raise sufficient funds to award one (1) \$1,000 scholarship to each deserving high school student in Passaic County. Therefore, if you know of anyone who would like to contribute or donate to the Council’s Scholarship Program, please refer them to the attention of Johanny A. Casillas at (973) 569-2131 or email johanny.casillas@doe.nj.gov

If you would like to donate, please send your tax-deductible donation to the following address:

Educational Council of Passaic County
c/o Passaic County Superintendent of Schools’ Office - 501 River Street, Paterson, NJ 07524

Platinum & Gold Sponsors



*2024 scholarships were made possible through support from the publication of the 2023 Ad Journal.
Funds collected from the 2024 Ad Journal will benefit the “Class of 2025.”*