

**SCHOOL NOTEBOOK**

# Two local seniors selected as U.S. Presidential Scholars

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Two Howard County high school seniors have won one of the most selective national scholastic awards.

Nicholas Santangelo, from Marriotts Ridge High School, and Meghna Sreenivas, from Reservoir High School, have been named U.S. Presidential Scholars, according to a May 4 announcement by the U.S. Department of Education.

The White House Commission on Presidential Scholars, appointed by President Obama, selected this year's 160 scholars based on outstanding academic achievement, artistic excellence, leadership, citizenship, service and contribution to their schools and communities.

More than 5,600 students qualified for the 2016 awards, based on outstanding performance on the College Board SAT and ACT exams, nominations by state school officials and recognition through the National YoungArts Foundation.

"This year's class of Presidential Scholars continues a more than 50 year trend of honoring students who've shown excellence in their educational, artistic and civic pursuits," U.S. Secretary of Education John King said in a statement.

Santangelo was selected for a new initiative in the scholars program that recognizes high-achieving students in career and technical education.

"Thirty years ago, the program was expanded to include students in the arts, which is critical to providing students with a well-rounded education," King said in the release. "Now, we've added 20 more slots to honor our highest achieving students in career and technical education, reflecting the Department's belief that a quality education must be a well-rounded education that prepares students for college, careers and any other civic service."

## Locals sweep personal finance competition

Students and teachers from Howard County swept a financial literacy competition hosted by the Maryland Council on Economic Education last month and will be recognized at the organization's awards luncheon on May 18 at Towson University.

The annual Maryland Personal Finance Challenge, presented by M&T Bank, was held April 12 and 13 and gave middle and

high school students from around the state the chance to demonstrate their knowledge of personal finance on topics like spending, credit, savings, investing, income and money management.

Applications and Research Lab students Austin Adamczyk, Brooke Rankin, Johnathan Taylor and Matthew Poltorak, led by their teacher, Maddy Halbach, won first place in the high school division. A team from Mount Hebron High School led by teacher Bernadette Betcha, made up of students Praneeth Chandu, Matthew Michaels, Joseph Petti and Abhishek Velayudham, took second place.

Lake Elkhorn Middle School students Celeste Ampaah, Aymar Bisbeck, NiNi Vo and Savon Warren, led by teacher Jueneville Dean, placed first in the middle school competition; students Jordan Abraham, DaNasia McRae, Kiana Wanbui and Theodore Yu, also from Lake Elkhorn Middle, took second place.

## CA scholarship awarded to 5 high school seniors

The Columbia Association has selected five graduating high school seniors to receive its \$2,500 Maggie J. Brown Spirit of Columbia Scholarship Award, in recognition of their service to the community.

The winners are Ryan Dworsky, from Hammond High School; Natalia Graff, Kelsey Guerinot and Kelly Mackin, from Atholton High School; and Maya James from Oakland Mills High School.

The winners will be recognized at a meeting of the Columbia Association's Board of Directors on June 9 at 7:30 p.m.

## Students host benefit for Grassroots

Student members of the Horizon Councils are presenting "Get Your Glo On," a party for middle school students and fundraiser for Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center on Saturday, May 21, from 7:30 to 10 p.m. at Columbia Gym.

The party will feature carnival games, dodge ball, a DJ, refreshments and glowing face paint. Tickets cost \$10 and will be sold at the door. Attendees are encouraged to wear a white T-shirt "for a better glo."

For more information, contact Cathy Smith at cathhyvsmith@verizon.net or call 410-302-4662.

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