



JOAN BALLWEG

STATE SENATOR · 14TH SENATE DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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June 6, 2022
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2022 Joan Ballweg Leadership Scholarship Recipients Recognized for Leadership in School and Community

Madison...State Senator Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan) presented her 18th Annual Joan Ballweg Leadership Scholarship to 12 outstanding students across the 14th Senate District.

"Since I was first elected to the legislature, it has been my honor to recognize dedicated students from across our community. Each and every one of these recipients goes above and beyond, not only in academics, but in sports, their churches and community organizations," said Ballweg. "I cannot wait to see what these young leaders achieve in college and their future careers."

Recipients of the Joan Ballweg Leadership Scholarship each receive a \$500 scholarship. This year's recipients include:

Holly Engel, Adams-Friendship High School, has excelled in various class officer positions and been a member of the National Honor Society throughout her high school career, all while maintaining high-caliber grades in challenging coursework. Holly is planning to pursue a degree in Wilderness and Park Management, and I wish her all the best at Vermillion College.

Amber Fietzer, Little Wolf (Manawa) High School, participated in multiple sports, held officer positions in FFA and volunteered for multiple organizations. She brought innovation to her student council and helped the activities she was involved in rebound from the pandemic. Amber is a well-rounded student who will go on to do great things as she attends Concordia University to study biomedical sciences in hopes of becoming a geneticist.

Alexa Fleegal, Berlin High School, shows a passion for her rural community and has been heavily involved in her local FFA. Additionally, she balanced a rigorous class schedule, played multiple sports and was a member of various clubs. Alexa hopes to give back to her hometown by becoming a genetic counselor or dairy geneticist. Good luck in furthering your education at UW-La Crosse.

Julia Franke, Princeton High School, already has a head start on attaining a degree in criminal justice and her goal of becoming a police officer. She has taken 36 dual college credit courses while attending high school. Julia has also been involved in countless extracurriculars ranging from assisting with youth soccer camps to helping coordinate church picnics. Good luck at Fox Valley Technical College.

Courtney Gardner, Montello High School, is a supportive leader both in sports and academics. She played basketball and volleyball, was active in music and theater and also participated in her school's academic bowl and math team. Courtney plans to use the skills and experiences she's attained in pursuit of a business degree at UW-La Crosse.

Abigail Klink, Poynette High School, has helped lead many of the sports she is involved in to their state championships. Additionally, she volunteered to coordinate book sales and silent auctions to ensure the future success of her drama club and Future Business Leaders of America chapter. Abigail plans to attend the University of Notre Dame and major in neuroscience on her way to becoming a pediatrician.

Emma Mott, Ripon High School, owns her own photography business and volunteers her skills in capturing school and community events. Emma also plays tennis, is a dancer and is involved in drama club. With her initiative, I'm excited to see what she will be able to accomplish while she pursues a degree in journalism.

Sawyer Nelsen, Wild Rose High School, in her many leadership positions has coordinated field trips, fundraisers and volunteer projects. She has also showcased her musical talent in the school band, at local community events and through performances with the Wild Rose Drama Department. Sawyer will be attending my alma mater, UW-Stevens Point, and studying music education.

Brooke Peterson, Waupaca High School, worked hard to make her school feel as welcoming as possible through various service projects which included bringing treats to staff, highlighting student achievements, displaying positive messages and managing the school community calendar. She plans to build on the skills she's learned through her accounting apprenticeship with Waupaca Foundry by attending UW-Stevens Point in pursuit of an accounting degree.

Luyen Pham, Berlin High School, created her own definition of leadership after coming to the United States when she was 12. Upon entering high school, she worked hard to master a new language, met new friends and started multiple clubs and organizations. Luyen will continue to inspire her peers as she attends Grinnell College in hopes of becoming a medical or healthcare manager.

Ellie Pomrening, Weyauwega-Fremont High School, has participated in many state, regional and national competitions for both Family, Career and Community Leaders of America and FFA. Additionally, Ellie has performed in her school musicals and plays. I wish her luck as she starts her journey to becoming a large animal veterinarian at Fox Valley Technical College.

Jesse Ramsey, Westfield High School, was a class officer all four years of high school and succeeded in careful planning of events throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Jesse has job shadowed my office and served as a Senate 'Page for a Day' this past year to get a taste of what it would be like to work in public service. He plans to attend UW-Oshkosh with a major in political science and hopes to one day work at the State Capitol.

"Congratulations to each of this year's recipients," said Ballweg. "You have made your parents and community proud. Your next challenge is to take what you've learned through your high school experience and continue to move forward, making Wisconsin a better place for us all."

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