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JLI Scholarship Recipients Announced at May 7th Fundraiser

The 2012-13 Jefferson Leadership Institute (JLI) class, in partnership with the Northern New York Community Foundation, will announce the 2013 recipients of the new JLI Scholarship at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 7, at the Italian American Civic Association, Bellew Avenue, Watertown. Three Jefferson County high school juniors each will be awarded a full year of mentorship by alumni of the JLI program and \$1,000 each in financial assistance for postsecondary education. The JLI class has raised enough money to date to sustain the scholarship at the same level for several years and will continue its fundraising efforts with the goal of carrying on the scholarship-mentorship program in the years to come.

“The combination of the generosity of area businesses and alumni of the JLI program with the hard work and dedication of this year’s JLI class allowed us to turn our vision of awarding three \$1,000 scholarships and mentorships to budding community leaders into reality,” says JLI participant Elizabeth C. Quencer. “We still have a lot of work ahead of us in our efforts to quell the brain drain and encourage greater civic participation among Jefferson County youth, but awarding our first round of scholarships and mentorships is an exciting achievement that will have a lasting, positive impact on our community.”

The Community Foundation received more than 30 completed applications from juniors attending school districts in Jefferson County during the scholarship’s inaugural year. Selections were based on an in-person interview and submitted application materials. The selection criteria included demonstrated history of and commitment to civic engagement and community service, personal character, and academic potential. The mentoring component of the scholarship will take place during the recipients’ senior year, and recipients will receive their financial award shortly before their first semester of college.

“We are extremely proud of the Jefferson Leadership Class of 2012-13 for initiating this new opportunity for high school students,” comments April Fallon, coordinator of partnerships. “The experience the high school students will be afforded during their senior year of mentorship is wonderful. We look forward to working with the next JLI class.”

The three recipients will be recognized during the last half hour of the 2012-13 JLI class’s spaghetti dinner and silent auction fundraising event benefitting the JLI Scholarship fund. The event is open to the public, and the cost of admission is \$8 per person. Advance tickets can be purchased at Watertown Kinney Drugs locations or from any member of the 2012-13 JLI class. Tickets also will be available for purchase at the door.

The Community Foundation is accepting tax-deductible donations for the JLI scholarship indefinitely. Checks can be made payable to the Northern New York Community Foundation and sent to the Foundation’s office at 120 Washington Street, Suite 400, Watertown, New York 13601. “JLI Scholarship” should be written on the memo line.

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