

NORTHERN NEW YORK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, INC.

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JLI Scholarship Program Launches into Second Year

The Northern New York Community Foundation is accepting applications for the 2014 Jefferson Leadership Institute (JLI) Scholarship for high school juniors who reside and attend school in Jefferson County. The scholarship consists of a minimum of \$1,000 in financial assistance for post-secondary education as well as a year of mentorship by alumni of the Jefferson Leadership Institute. Applications will be distributed to the Jefferson County school districts this week and are available for download at the Foundation's website www.nnycf.org. Completed applications must be returned to the Foundation or postmarked by no later than April 1. A panel of Jefferson Leadership Institute alumni will select and announce a minimum of three recipients in May.

The Jefferson Leadership Institute Class of 2013, in partnership with the Northern New York Community Foundation, created the JLI Scholarship to encourage local civic engagement among Jefferson County youths and foster their return to our community upon completion of their education. The opportunity for mentorship from local business and community leaders during the recipients' senior year of high school distinguishes this scholarship from all others available to Jefferson County students. Applicants will be evaluated by their commitment to local civic engagement, personal character, and academic potential. Selections will be made on the basis of an application form with five short essays, two recommendations, a certified academic transcript, and a possible panel interview.

2013 recipients Jake Allen (Belleville-Henderson CSD), Casey Porter (South Jefferson CSD), and Alexis Stewart (Sackets Harbor CSD) have had enriching experiences with their respective mentors Christopher Lorence (JLI Class of 1996), Amanda Root (JLI Class of 2011), and Cheryl Howard (JLI Class of 2013) through the JLI Scholarship thus far. The students were paired with their mentors on the basis of mutual interest. Mentorship activities have included job shadowing, hands-on assistance with work projects, and professional/academic advising. Along with gaining early practical experience in their intended fields of work and study, the JLI Scholars are developing organizational and communication skills that will assist them in their future endeavors.

Organizations interested in receiving an informational presentation regarding the JLI Scholarship and Jefferson Leadership Institute alumni interested in volunteering as mentors are encouraged to contact the Community Foundation. The 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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