

NORTHERN NEW YORK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, INC.

120 Washington Street ♦ Suite 400

Watertown, NY 13601

(315) 782-7110 ♦ Fax: (315) 782-0047

web: [www.nnycf.org](http://www.nnycf.org) ♦ email: [april@nnycf.org](mailto:april@nnycf.org)

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For Immediate Release  
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For more information,  
contact April L. Fallon, 782-7110

**Local High School Juniors Awarded Inaugural JLI Scholarship**

Jefferson County high school students Jake Allen (Belleville-Henderson), Casey Porter (South Jefferson), and Alexis Stewart (Sackets Harbor), all juniors, were awarded the Jefferson Leadership Institute Scholarship by the Jefferson Leadership Institute (JLI) Class of 2013 and the Northern New York Community Foundation during a ceremony at the Italian American Civic Association in Watertown on the evening of May 7th. The award includes a full year of mentorship by alumni of the JLI program and \$1,000 in financial assistance for postsecondary education. The JLI class and the Community Foundation enthusiastically congratulate this year's recipients and confirm that the scholarship will continue for a second year in 2014.

Jake Allen, Belleville, is president of his junior class, a Future Farmers of America sentinel, and secretary of his school's foreign language club. He is particularly proud of his volunteer work with the St. Cecilia's Church youth group. Jake will be mentored by Christopher Lorence (JLI Class of 1996), Owner of Christopher A. Lorence Public Relations & Marketing, Carthage.

Casey Porter, Watertown, is president of the Jefferson County 4-H dairy and junior holstein clubs and captain of the Honeyville Baptist Church puppet ministry. She founded the "Kickin' It For A Cure" soccer fundraiser benefiting the Susan Komen Cancer Research Center. Casey will be mentored by Amanda Root (JLI Class of 2011), Team Coordinator of Community Nutrition, Environment & Health at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County, Watertown.

Alexis Stewart, Adams, plays soccer and softball and has participated in her school's Patriot Pals mentoring program. She plans to pursue a career in physical therapy. Alexis will be mentored by Cheryl Howard, PT, Cert. MDT (JLI Class of 2013), Owner/CEO of Innovative Physical Therapy Solutions, Watertown.

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 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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Photo attached: *Left to right:* JLI inaugural scholarship recipients Jake Allen (Belleville), Casey Porter (Watertown) and Alexis Stewart (Adams)

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