



## News about...

Summer 2016

## Urban **US** Suburban

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### Participating Districts:

Brighton  
Brockport  
East Irondequoit  
East Rochester  
Fairport  
Hilton  
Kendall  
Penfield  
Pittsford  
Rochester  
Spencerport  
Webster  
West Irondequoit  
Wheatland-Chili

Coordinated by



## YMCA Camp Cory Unites Kids!

My name is Jeanne Strazzabosco. I am a Pittsford resident and recently retired teacher of PCSD.

In the final May of my 30 year teaching career, when I was counting down the days until I would pull out of the Pittsford's Barker Road Middle School driveway for the last time—I had no idea that three of my students would take me on a journey that has forever changed my heart. Mid May. Three girls. Three Urban-Suburban students.

One day after a discussion in French class on teens and independence, the girls hung back from the mass exodus at my classroom door. (Note to reader: This is always a signal that something important is going to be shared.) So I played along and got my blue passes ready to fill out in case they'd be late for their next class.

All three girls talked at once saying things like, "I can't play outside." "I can't even play in my back yard." "I'll be babysitting my brother or sister all summer." All these emotions were brought to the surface from a discussion about French teens and independence.

I walked with the girls down the hall and told them I was glad they had shared and that I would consider their stories because my childhood summers were quite different than theirs. Their stories tore up my heart.

I reflected on my childhood summers that were filled with adventures right on my street where I could play, pretend "fish" in the gutters after a rain and clip baseball cards to my bike spokes and make a racket all over the neighborhood. I would not trade those times for anything.

That afternoon I decided to find a way to send those young ladies to YMCA Camp Cory. I applied to the Carl Metzler Memorial Fund and received three full scholarships. The girls' parents embraced the opportunity, and Dani, Samari and Shamonnice spent a life-changing week at Camp Cory.



Left to right: Shamonnice Lee, Samari Brown, Jeanne Strazzabosco and Daniellise Santos

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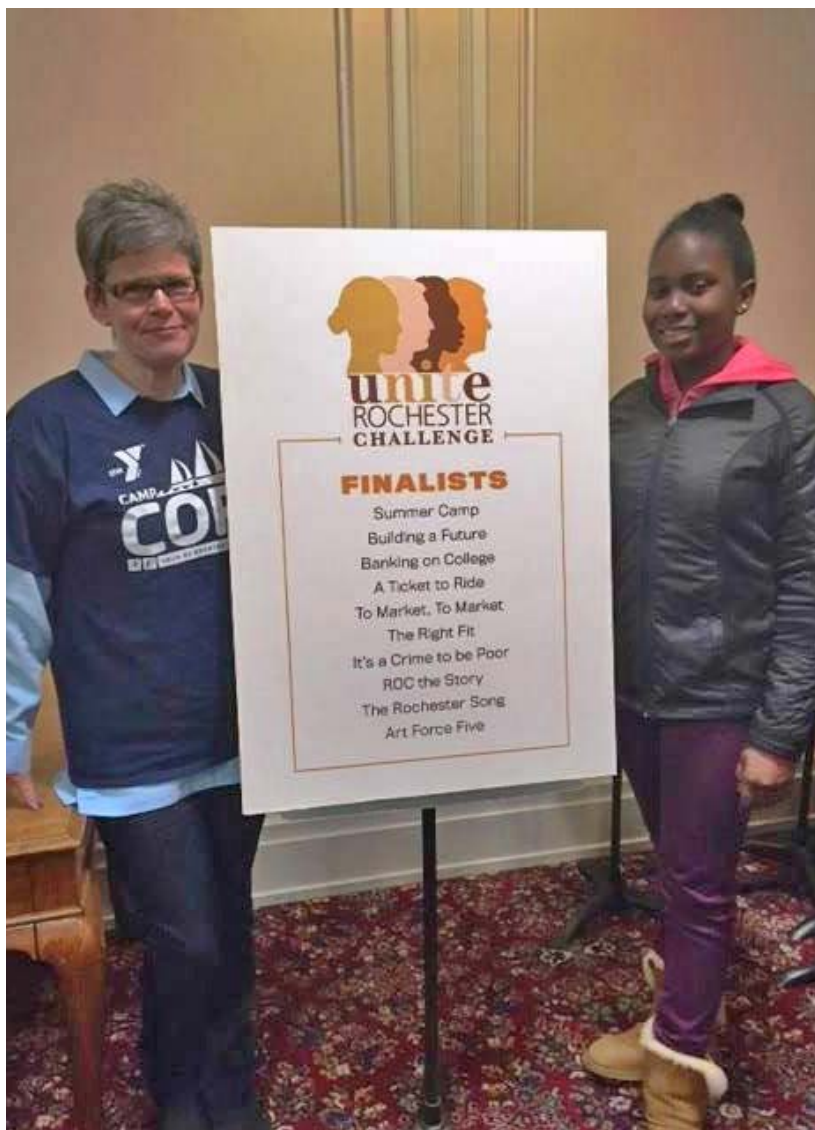
My students played, grew as leaders and experienced independence. They made friends from diverse backgrounds, learned what can be accomplished through teamwork and shared their own stories and life experiences.

The YMCA seeks new leaders and staff that reflect our greater community. Eighty percent of campers that attend continue as Counselors-in-Training and many are then hired as staff of the YMCA. With a more richly diverse camper base, the diversity of leadership and staff will shift as well. Future campers will see themselves in the faces of their camp counselors and dream of possibilities.

It is a win-win situation for everyone!

Currently, I have partnered with Theresa Woodson, Program Director of the Urban-Suburban Interdistrict Transfer Program; Kelly Balconi, Director of Development for YMCA Camp Cory; and Pittsford Schools to make this goal a reality for even more students. Twenty-one new campers from Barker Road and Calkins Road middle schools have registered to attend camp this summer. In an effort to raise scholarship funds to assist with the financial costs associated with this opportunity, I participated in the Unite Rochester Challenge sponsored by the Democrat & Chronicle. Our proposal made it to the **Top 10 of the Unite Rochester Challenge**. Although we did not win the competition, our goal received positive feedback and attention.

I would like to thank everyone who supported my vision and made it possible for another group of students to experience Camp Cory. If you would like more information about this initiative or are interested in making a donation, please feel free to contact Jeanne Strazzabosco via email: [jeannestrazzabosco@gmail.com](mailto:jeannestrazzabosco@gmail.com) or phone: (585) 943-6031.



Jeanne Strazzabosco and Samari Brown at Hochstein Music Hall for the Unite Rochester Challenge

**Make check payable to: YMCA Camp Cory**

**In Memo:** Pittsford Urban-Suburban Students

**Mail to:** YMCA of Greater Rochester Camp Cory  
1851 Fairport Nine Mile Point Road  
Penfield, NY 14526



# Urban-Suburban Program receives W.B. Potter Founder's Award

On April 21, 2016, Causewave Community Partners, formerly the Ad Council of Rochester, held its Annual Breakfast Celebration. During this celebration, the Urban-Suburban Program was recognized for its service to the community and was awarded the W.B. Potter Founder's Award. This award recognizes "a results-oriented collaborative that both fills a community need and serves as a role model for other partnerships."

Other 2016 award recipients included:

- Beacon Award: Canfield & Tack Inc.
- Chairman's Award: Causewave's Renaming Committee, with chairmen Matt Jones of Wegmans Food Markets Inc. and Courtney Cotrupe of Partners + Napier Inc.
- Lantern Award: Andrew Soucier of Soucier Design LLC
- Legacy Award: Given in memory of Beth Bruner, director at the Bruner Foundation.
- The Matchstick Prize: NAMI Rochester

Causewave Community Partners is a non-profit organization who addresses critical local needs through a community-centered approach.



Todd Butler, President and CEO of Causewave Community Partners, and Theresa Woodson, Program Director of Urban-Suburban



Theresa Woodson, Program Director of Urban-Suburban, and Jeffrey Crane, West Irondequoit Superintendent



Ninth graders, Alexzaundria Carner (left) and Alex Rans of East Rochester Jr./Sr. High School with Superintendent Mark Linton

# Congratulations to the Urban-Suburban 2016 graduating class!

The 2016 graduating class will soon begin the next phase of a magnificent journey. Many will pursue a post-secondary education, some will enter the workforce, while others will go into the military. Whatever path is chosen, we wish them nothing but success.

## *Brighton*

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**\*Jazmin Elie**  
Army National Guard  
Major: Combat Medic



**Malik Evans**  
SUNY Brockport  
Major: Psychology



**\*Clarence Henry**  
Wells College  
Major: Political Science

## *Brockport*

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**\*Ayanah Alexander**  
Morgan State University  
Major: Liberal Arts & Sciences



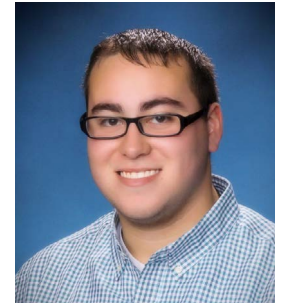
**Jherlyn Brady**  
Entering the workforce



**\*Jasibel Claudio**  
Kueka College  
Major: Occupational Therapy



**Miranda Coffie**  
Genesee Community College  
Major: Communications & Media Arts



**Luis Colon**  
Monroe Community College  
Major: Technology



**\*Joseph Cooper**  
University of Alabama  
Major: Political Science



**\*Laritza Fernandez**  
University of Tampa  
Major: Biology/Pre-Med



**\*Edmond Poole**  
Monroe Community College  
Major: Computer Science



**India Wigington**  
Monroe Community College  
Major: Engineering



## Fairport

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**\*Wanya Bruce**  
Niagara University  
Major: Business  
Administration



**Anazia Hillman**  
Monroe Community  
College  
Major: Business  
Administration



**\*Destinee Johnson**  
Monroe Community  
College  
Major: Nursing



**\*Micah Malave**  
Monroe Community  
College  
Major: Liberal Arts &  
Sciences



**\*Eury Rosario**  
Monroe Community  
College  
Major: Mechanical  
Engineering Technology



**Shemar Watkins**  
University at Buffalo  
Major: Nursing

## Penfield

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**\*Deja Baxter**  
The College at  
Brockport  
Major: Liberal Arts &  
Sciences



**Mireya Burgos-  
Cameron**  
Florida International  
University  
Major: Criminology



**Diego Correa-Colon**  
Monroe Community  
College  
Major: Psychology &  
Sociology



**\*Eboni Jackson**  
High Point University  
Major: Communications



**\*Jayla Reed**  
Canisius College  
Major: Criminal Justice



**DeQuan Smith**  
Fredonia  
Major: Business  
Administration



**\*Ranita Williams**  
St. John Fisher College  
Major: Psychology

## *Pittsford Mendon*

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**\*Jose Carattini**  
Monroe Community College  
Major: Technology



**Peter Knapp**  
Monroe Community College  
Major: Business Administration



**\*Shally Lin**  
University at Buffalo  
Major: Biological Medical Sciences



**Bianca Lopez**  
Canisius College  
Major: Education



**Devin Miller**  
Central Piedmont Community College  
Major: Civil Engineering



**\*Shamyah Starks**  
Delhi State University  
Major: Culinary Arts

## *Pittsford Sutherland*

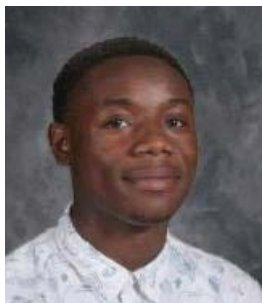
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**\*Micah Cook**  
SUNY Cortland  
Major: Biomedical Studies



**Timothy Culbreath**  
Entering the workforce



**\*Kevin Davis**  
Elmira College  
Major: Business Administration



**Idalys Fraguada**  
United States Army



**\*Karim Houser**  
Monroe Community College  
Major: Liberal Arts & Sciences



**\*Victoria Scott-Griffin**  
University at Buffalo  
Major: Psychology



**\*Chyna Stephens**  
Harding University  
Major: Liberal Arts & Sciences



## West Irondequoit

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**Isaiah Reyes**  
Monroe Community  
College  
Major: Liberal Arts &  
Sciences



**\*Ty'Reek Sizer**  
Syracuse University  
Major: Sports  
Management



**Jordyn Smith**  
Monroe Community  
College  
Major: Liberal Arts &  
Sciences



**Ray Smith**  
United States Navy



**Jordan Stewart**  
Monroe Community  
College  
Major: Psychology



**Diamond Valion**  
University at Buffalo  
Major: Chemistry



**Deron Williams**  
Monroe Community  
College  
Major: Nursing



**Semaja Wilson**  
LeMoyne College  
Major: Biochemistry

## Wheatland-Chili

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**Anastasia Campbell**  
Alfred University  
Major: Criminal Justice



**\*\*Michael Worth**  
West Point United  
States Military Academy  
Major: Engineering &  
Law

*\* Urban-Suburban Scholarship Award Recipients*

*\*\* Monroe #1 BOCES Educational Foundation Scholarship Award*



# Urban-Suburban Hosts 2nd Annual 3-on-3 Basketball Scholarship Tournament

On March 5, 2016, the Urban-Suburban Program hosted its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 3-on-3 Basketball Scholarship Tournament at Pittsford Mendon High School. This year's tournament included activities for the entire family to get involved, in addition to the middle and high school tournaments. Attendees were able to compete in 3-point and Foul Shooting contests, and had a chance to win door prizes and giveaways that were provided by our community sponsors. All proceeds from the tournament benefit the Urban-Suburban Scholarship Fund.

Congratulations to the champions of the tournament!

## Middle School Champions:

**Team Name:** "I-Town Hoopers"

**Players:** Jaden White, Jaleel Davis & Paris Holmes

**Participating School:** Dake Junior High School

**District:** West Irondequoit

## High School Champions:

**Team Name:** "Brajmegles"

**Players:** Micah Cook, Robbie Doggett, Kevin Davis & Josh Mack

**Participating School:** Pittsford Sutherland High School

**District:** Pittsford



I-Town Hoopers



Brajmegles

## 3 Point Champion:

Chris D., Guest

## Foul Shooting Champion:

Alton B., West Irondequoit Parent

The Urban-Suburban Program would like to thank everyone who contributed to the scholarship tournament, making it a success. It was truly a collaborative effort amongst all of our constituents, including our current students, families, participating districts, volunteers, and community sponsors. Special thanks to Pittsford School District for their in-kind donation of facilities, equipment, and manpower for the second consecutive year. We greatly appreciate the generosity and support of Superintendent Michael Pero, Athletic Director Scott Barker, Assistant Athletic Director Al DeCarlo, and staff Phil Zambino and Mike Ventura.

We also acknowledge our sponsors for their generous contributions: Amiel's Original Submarines, Applebee's (Fairport), Cheesecake Factory, Chipotle Mexican Grill (Irondequoit), DiBella's Old Fashioned Submarines (Fairport), Dunkin' Donuts, Eastview Mall, KFC (Webster, Irondequoit and Greece), Red Lobster (Greece), Rochester Razorsharks, Rochester Red Wings, Sea Breeze, Taco Bell (Fairport), Tops Friendly Market (Fairport), and Wegmans.

We are striving to expand this annual event; if you have any ideas or would like to be a part of this endeavor, please do not hesitate to contact Felicia Smith at 585-249-7048 and

[Felicia\\_smith@boces.monroe.edu](mailto:Felicia_smith@boces.monroe.edu).







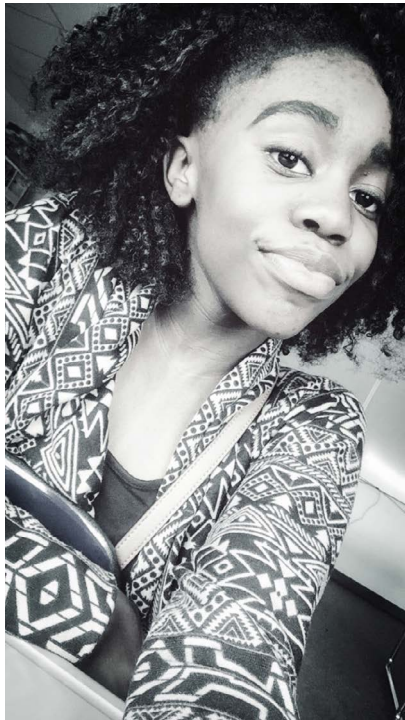




### Kaila Beaty

Kaila Beaty is in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade at Brighton High School. She also attends the Culinary Arts Program offered by Eastern Monroe Career Center (EMCC) at Monroe #1 BOCES. On May 25, 2016, Kaila was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society by EMCC at an Induction Ceremony held at the Burgundy Basin Inn in Pittsford, NY. The National Technical Honor Society recognizes top performing students across the nation who has maintained 90% grade average, 95% attendance, and demonstrated leadership and citizenship.

Kaila is also a member of Latinas Unidas. This year she was selected to be a Teen Ambassador at the ¡Soy Unica! ¡Soy Latina! Rally on April 16, 2016 at St. John Fisher College. This event empowers Latinas 7-18 years old, encouraging them to feel good about themselves and be proud to be Latinas. It is an opportunity for young girls to celebrate who they are, with other girls just like them.



### Summer Bennett

Summer Bennett is a 9<sup>th</sup> grader at Irondequoit High School in the West Irondequoit Central School District. She has had a noteworthy year.

In her Fashion and Entertainment Business class, Summer designed a t-shirt, using an application from her cell phone. The design was selected from among other submissions to be sold in the school book store. Initially, this assignment presented a special challenge for Summer because she belonged to a group in which she did not feel her peers were listening to any of her opinions or suggestions. As a result, she decided to work independently.

Summer was very interested in the Teen Fashion Camp at the Memorial Art Gallery. She applied and was accepted. She attended for five sessions in which learned to draw wearable designs and sew. This was an exciting experience for her and an excellent learning opportunity.





### Gianni Brown-Grant

Gianni Brown-Grant is in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade at Pittsford Mendon High School. On May 16, 2016, she was recognized at the school's Awards Night & National Honor Society Induction. Gianni was one of 88 students inducted into the Spring 2016 National Honor Society (NHS). The NHS recognizes outstanding high school students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character.

Gianni received a Parent Teacher Association (PTSA) Incentive Award in the area of Health and Wellness. This award is based on outstanding effort and/or achievement and is given on the basis of faculty recommendations.

In addition, Gianni was awarded the Plata (Silver) medal for Level 4 National Spanish Examination Awards.

Congratulations, Gianni on all of your accomplishments!



### Epongue Ekill

Epongue Ekill, junior from Fairport High School, continues to excel in her musical pursuits. Studying both the violin and piano, she takes every available opportunity to hone her craft. She began her studies at the age of four.

Most recently, Epongue was one of 78 musicians selected for the inaugural season in NYO2. NYO2 is a two-week, intensive summer training program for talented instrumentalists between the ages of 14-17. An extension of Carnegie Hall's National Youth Orchestra of the USA (NYO-USA), the program focuses on youth underserved by and underrepresented in the field of classical orchestra. Participants were chosen following a rigorous application process, including a comprehensive online audition.

The benefits of this program are bountiful. Participants will:

- Have access to individual instruction and workshops designed to foster arts leadership skills
- Receive coaching sessions from world-renowned musicians, including select members of The Philadelphia Orchestra
- Play alongside peers from across the country, including members of NYO-USA
- Perform with The Philadelphia Orchestra in a culminating performance in Philadelphia

Congratulations, Epongue on such an amazing learning opportunity!



Pittsford Crew



### Asia Hoyte

Asia Hoyte is a junior at Pittsford Mendon High School. She is currently a member of Pittsford Crew, a non-profit organization that provides rowing opportunities for middle and high school students in our region. She has been a member of this rowing team since her freshman year, participating both the fall and spring seasons. She has won several gold and silver medals over the past three years.

Asia recently completed her first season of Indoor Track & Field. She won sectionals in the weight throw and helped her team win their first indoor track and field championship. She then advanced to the State Championship at Cornell University coming in 2<sup>nd</sup> place at State Qualifiers in the weight throw. Although

Asia did not qualify for Nationals, her family reports that they are very proud her. She was able to make it to the State Championship after only three months of training and was competing against girls that have been doing weight throw for more than two years.

Since competing in the State Championship, Asia has received letters from colleges informing her that they saw her in action and will continue to watch her during the Outdoor Track Season. Asia has accomplished a great deal in her first season of Indoor Track & Field. She was Team MVP, and she broke two schools records in the Shot Put and Weight Throw. The previous shot put record dated back to 1998.

In addition to her athletics, Asia volunteers weekly and is studying for her AP exams and SATs. She is able to balance her extracurricular activities with her academic accomplishments, maintaining grades of As and Bs. Her family is grateful she was afforded these opportunities through her involvement in Urban-Suburban, contributing to her success in becoming a positive, well-rounded young lady.



### K'Mari Johnson

Fifth grader K'Mari Johnson was selected as a Pittsford Pride student recipient for Jefferson Road Elementary School for the 2015-2016 school year. K'Mari was nominated by his teacher Ms. Linda Polvino. According to Ms. Polvino, "when I think about which of my students consistently demonstrates actions of a 'good person,' K'Mari always is forefront in my mind."

Pittsford Pride is a prestigious honor bestowed upon a student who consistently exemplifies character traits like fairness, respect, caring, responsibility, courage, and honesty. Jefferson Road Principal Shawn Clark stated, "K'Mari has demonstrated these qualities throughout his time at Jeff Road. His positive attitude and care for others make him the perfect Pittsford Pride award recipient."

Recipients were recognized in front of the Board of Education on Monday, February 8, 2016.





### Sidney Taylor

Sidney Taylor joined Cub Scouts at the end of 1<sup>st</sup> grade, while attending Park Road Elementary School in Pittsford, NY. He was a member of Pack 291 which held its meetings at his school. Cub Scouts helped him to learn foundational skills that were necessary to become a Boy Scout, but also life in general. During this time, Sidney received the Arrow of Light Award, the highest rank in cub scouting. At the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Sidney made the transition to Boy Scouts.

As a result of his participation in Boy Scouts, Sidney has been afforded many opportunities that he otherwise would not have had. As he moved through the ranks of Tenderfoot Scout to Life Scout, he participated in many challenge trophy camporees. He has attended week-long camps, completed 46'er hikes on various peaks, and participated in the reenactment of the War of 1812 in Fort Niagara for four consecutive years, fighting on the American side of the

war. He has also visited places such as Historic Gettysburg, The US Mint, Annapolis Military College, and Presidents' Benjamin Franklin and Dwight Eisenhower homes, just to name a few. He was able to earn the majority of the badges required to become an Eagle Scout by attending badge merit university weekends.

On January 26, 2016, Sidney earned the highest rank that a Scout can achieve and became an Eagle Scout. Coincidentally, he was awarded this designation on his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday. This past April, he became a certified scuba diver through Scouts and had the privilege of accompanying part of his troop to Sea Base High Adventure Camp in the Florida Keys for 10 days. He continues to earn merit badges and is allowed to participate in program activities until his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Scouting has had a significant impact on Sidney's life in many ways, including helping him find a career path at an early age. The experiences he has had over the years has influenced his decision to join the NAVY through ROTC while pursuing a bachelor's degree in Bio-Medical Engineering upon graduation from high school. His dream is to become a Search and Rescue diver for the United States Navy.

The support that Sidney was given by friends, loved ones, and his Scout family has helped him on his journey. The family appreciates everyone's assistance because he would not have been successful without it.



### Prophecy Wood

Congratulations to current Urban-Suburban student Prophecy Wood! Prophecy (center in the photo) is in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Fred W. Hill School in Brockport, NY. On March 9, 2016, she was one of 22 students at the 4<sup>th</sup> grade level who participated in the school's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Spelling Bee competition. She made it to the top five, and advanced to the finals on March 10, 2016 where she earned 4<sup>th</sup> place. All finalists received a dictionary and Spelling Bee t-shirt. Congratulations Prophecy on your dedication and hard work. Keep up the good work!

## Alumni Highlights



### **Rita Hill Brighton High School Class of 2009**

I attribute my participation in the Urban-Suburban Program to my early personal and intellectual growth. I entered the program in the first grade, attending Council Rock Elementary School in the Brighton Central School District. Attending school in Brighton not only created a strong academic foundation for me, but also allowed me to be in a multicultural setting at a young age. I can truly say my experiences have helped me to develop a greater understanding of myself and others in a diverse world, both inside and outside of the classroom.

After graduating from Brighton High School in 2009, I continued my education at St. John Fisher College majoring in anthropology and museum studies. I later served a year of AmeriCorps VISTA as a Rochester Youth Year Fellow at the Rochester-Monroe County Youth Bureau. I am currently attending the University of Denver to obtain my Master's degree in international development with a concentration in education. I have been accepted into the Peace Corps and will begin service as a Public Health Educator in Guinea in July 2016. To date, I have completed the coursework for my degree, but will officially graduate upon completion of Peace Corps.

I am tremendously grateful for my experience participating in the Urban-Suburban Program. Undoubtedly, it has helped set me on a path of success for further personal, academic, and professional development.



### **Leah Neal Brighton High School Class of 1998**

I am a proud graduate of Brighton High School, class of 1998. It was there that I gained life-long friendships and a wonderful education. Going to school in Brighton always made me strive to do my best, and is where my love of biology began. I was inspired by great teachers and an internship with the athletic trainer in which hard work paid off.

I took this love of learning to Northeastern University in Boston, MA where I graduated in 2004. During my time at Northeastern, I was fortunate

enough to start a co-op at the New England Aquarium. It was during this time that I was able to indulge in my childhood love of the water and animals. I spent most of my college career at the New England Aquarium when I wasn't in class, with the exception of a six month internship at Walt Disney World. While I was there, I was a diver at EPCOT's Living Seas (now Nemo and Friends).

Upon returning to Boston from Florida, I finished my education and went on to manage a dive shop. It was here that I was

*(continued on next page)*



# Alumni Highlights

able to pursue my SCUBA certifications, eventually becoming an instructor in 2005. I was also able to travel all over the Caribbean leading dive trips.

By 2006, I missed working with animals so I moved to Baltimore, MD to take a job as an Aquarist for the National Aquarium. I worked there for two years before moving to their Washington, DC location to help renovate and invigorate that space. I worked at that location for four years. In 2012, I was asked to rejoin the team in Baltimore to help build and open what is now their new Blacktip Reef exhibit and to help manage their dive program. I stayed there for a year and although things were going well, I was presented with an opportunity I could not refuse.

In 2013, I was hired by what is now Ripley's Aquarium of Canada to help build and open a brand new 135,000 square-foot aquarium in the heart of downtown Toronto. The aquarium opened in 2013, and is an amazing showcase of teamwork and amazing work ethic. I worked as a Senior Aquarist/Dive Safety Officer until September of 2015 when I was promoted to the Director of Husbandry.

I now manage all of the animals in the collection as well as the staff that cares for them. It is always a challenge, but as my time in Urban-Suburban taught me, if you rise to the challenge you will come out on top!



## **Jazzmen Williams Pittsford Sutherland High School Class of 2001**

It was an honor to be a 2001 graduate from Pittsford Sutherland High School and the Urban-Suburban Program. I truly believe that the opportunities the Urban-Suburban Program offered were too great pass up.

I was accepted into the program in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Prior to my acceptance into the program, I was an above average student that lacked positive study habits and time management skills. This made the transition to Pittsford difficult, and I struggled academically. This was something I had never faced. I became an average student with “potential.” The amount of homework, the long bus rides, and the late nights were not something I was accustomed to. I remember asking my mother if I could go back to the Rochester City School District. She told me to give it a year, but I knew she had no intentions of letting me transfer back. I am thankful I gave it that one year and stuck with it.

I became better accustomed to the academic demands, more efficient with my time management, and learned how to balance my social life. By high school, I was exceeding the expectations of my teachers, my family, but most importantly, myself. It was not easy playing three sports during the school year, but I had a tremendous amount of support from my family,

teachers, and coaches. I gained an entirely new perspective on life through experiences and great friendships.

Upon graduation from high school, I received a full athletic scholarship to play football at Boston College. I graduated in five years with a Master of Science in Administrative Studies, with a focus in human resources. I was also able to play professional football in the Canadian Football League (CFL). Currently, I'm a Territory Sales Manager in Los Angeles, California for Stryker Instruments, one the largest medical device companies globally.

There are many factors that contributed to me being where I am today. However, when I reflect on my educational experiences, the Urban-Suburban Program is always one of the first things that come to mind. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of the program. It enhanced my life.

### *Brockport*

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#### **Acting Hill School principal appointed to permanent probationary role as principal**

Acting Hill School Principal Brandon Broughton has been appointed to serve as full time probationary principal at the Hill School. The Board of Education approved the appointment during its March 1 meeting.

Broughton has been serving as acting principal since Aug. 10, 2015, when his predecessor Sean Bruno accepted a position as superintendent of the Mexico Central School District.

Broughton taught at the Hill School since 2001 and served as assistant principal beginning in 2012. During his tenure he has been actively involved in several leadership roles at the Hill School and throughout the district, including serving as the teacher liaison to the PTSA, co-chair for STLE 3 Professional Development Committee and coordinator for the New Teacher Induction and Mentor Program.

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#### **Brockport High School assistant principal transfers to Hill School**

Brockport High School Assistant Principal Matthew Schultz has been appointed to assistant principal at the Hill School, effective July 1, 2016. The transfer was approved at the Board of Education meeting on April 26.

Schultz has been an assistant principal at Brockport High School since July 1, 2013. During his tenure, he served as the district-wide Curriculum and Assessment Committee chair for the Strengthening Teacher and Leader Effectiveness (STLE) Grant. He also chaired the Credit Committee, which is one of three major focus areas of the high school's prevention framework. In addition, Schultz completed the high school's master schedule for the past three years, supervised the graduation ceremony and organized the homecoming parade.

Schultz will fill the role vacated by Brandon Broughton, who was appointed to permanent probationary principal at the Hill School.

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### Three Fairport administrators announce retirements

Three longtime Fairport Central School District administrators have announced their retirement after the 2015-16 school year.

Retiring are:

- Shelley Gentile, Director of Humanities
- Jan Taylor, Director of Professional Development
- Jim Zumbo, Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics



#### Shelley Gentile

Mrs. Gentile, who is completing her 33<sup>rd</sup> year in education, has been with Fairport as an administrator for the past 13 years. She started her career as an ELA teacher for grades 7-12, and held positions as a K-12 staff developer and pre-k through fifth grade literacy chairperson before coming to Fairport. She is currently the director of humanities for grades K-12.

She said she will miss the ‘amazing’ students she has taught over the years.

“These young people touched my heart in so many ways,” she said. “I will also miss the committed professionals I have had the honor of working with over the past 33 years.”

Looking ahead, Mrs. Gentile said she plans to travel with her husband in her retirement, and will start by traveling to Utah to visit their son. She said they will also be providing childcare for their granddaughter, and spending more time at home working on various organization projects.



#### Jan Taylor

Mrs. Taylor has served 32 years in education, including the last 26 years at Fairport. She began teaching fifth and sixth grade in Mobile, Alabama and then at Gateway Nursery School in Fairport before transitioning to Fairport Central School District as a teacher for grades kindergarten, second grade and special education at Jefferson Avenue School. In her time at Fairport, she also held positions as the lead teacher at Brooks Hill and Jefferson Avenue Schools, assistant principal at Brooks Hill, and the director of Elementary Education before her current position as director of Professional Development.

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## Did You Know?

A special highlight of her career was “working with students and watching them grow and change.” Other highlights were “working with teachers who always want to do what is best for their students, and working with administrators who strive to provide the best learning environment for students,” she said.

She said she will miss working with the amazing students and staff in Fairport.

Looking ahead to her retirement, Mrs. Taylor said she and her husband plan to travel and to spend more time with their children and grandchildren.

“We are hoping to live part time in Charlotte, North Carolina to be near our family, and when there I hope to volunteer in my grandchildren’s school,” she said.



### Jim Zumbo

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Fairport’s Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics Jim Zumbo is retiring after serving 32 years in public education, with the past 20 years at Fairport. He began his public school career as a health and physical education teacher/athletic trainer at Guilderland High School, outside of Albany, for five years.

As a native of the Rochester area, he and his wife returned home when he accepted his first administrative job as the athletic director/assistant principal at Greece Arcadia High School for seven years before coming to Fairport in 1996, where he serves today in his current role.

When he looks back on his career, Mr. Zumbo said “most everything that I remember has to do with the special people in our school community,” recalling the pride that the Fairport community has in athletics and in supporting children just as much now as they did 20 years ago when he came to Fairport.

“I’ll be searching for how I’m going to stay connected with my Fairport family, because it’s become interconnected with my Zumbo family [his wife, Renee, has worked for Fairport for 18 years and all three of their daughters graduated from Fairport High School] and this has been a highlight for me that my family has been a part of my career,” he said.

In his retirement Mr. Zumbo said he plans to relax and spend time with his family and friends participating in recreational activities such as biking and golf and do some travelling. Additionally, he is hoping to pay it forward by helping his family with the daily tasks he often overlooked or neglected during his career due to spending nights and weekends at athletic events.

“My wife and daughters sacrificed a lot for my career and took an interest in what I did,” he said. “It’s time for me to support my wife like she’s always done for me. She’s only asked me to have dinner ready when she comes home from work and clean the bathrooms.”





### **Paul Benz Named Principal of Webster Schroeder High School**

The Webster Central School District is pleased to announce that Paul Benz has accepted the position as the new principal of Webster Schroeder High School, effective July 1, 2016, and pending Webster Board of Education approval. Mr. Benz is replacing current interim principal David Paddock.

Mr. Benz is a former administrator and faculty member of the Webster Schools' community. He was a mathematics teacher at Willink Middle School and served as an assistant principal at Spry Middle School from 2004-2011. He was also an assistant principal in the Churchville-Chili Central School District. During his teaching tenure at Willink Middle

School, Mr. Benz was actively involved in the lives of his students as a modified coach for the boys' basketball and soccer teams, along with freshman boys' basketball coach for Webster Schroeder High School. His love of sports and coaching also extended into the Webster community, where he was a volunteer coach for recreation programs including basketball, soccer, and softball. Mr. Benz also served the Webster CSD community as a board of education member from 2013-2015. He is an educator and administrator committed to collaboration among faculty, staff, and families.

Mr. Benz left Webster in 2011 to become principal of North Rose-Wolcott High School. His collaborative leadership style, passion for education, and genuine, caring personality made an indelible impact on the students, faculty, and staff of North Rose-Wolcott High School. Mr. Benz is excited to take the next step of his career back in Webster, a community he has called home since 1997. Mr. Benz and his wife, Christine, live in Webster with their two daughters, Emma (Webster Schroeder High School Class of 2014) and Meredith (Webster Schroeder High School Class of 2016). Christine is part of the Webster Schools' community, too, working as a librarian at Klem Road South Elementary School.

"I am looking forward to working closely with the outstanding educational community of Webster Schroeder High School and the Webster Central School District community-at-large," said Mr. Benz. "Webster's educational program and schools are exemplary, and I am honored to be part of the leadership team at Webster Schroeder High School."

A graduate of SUNY Geneseo, Mr. Benz received his teacher certification from Daemen College and his master's degree in education from Nazareth College. In addition, he received his educational administration certifications from SUNY Brockport. Webster CSD is fortunate to welcome Mr. Benz back home as the new principal of Webster Schroeder High School.

## Did You Know?

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### **Scott Wilcox Named Principal of Plank Road South Elementary School**

The Webster Central School District is pleased to announce that Scott Wilcox has accepted the position as the new Plank Road South Elementary School principal, effective July 1, 2015, and pending Webster Board of Education approval during their June 11 meeting. Mr. Wilcox is replacing current principal Robert Hathaway, who has accepted the principal's position at Winslow Elementary School in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District.

Mr. Wilcox is a former member of the Webster Schools' community. He began his career in Webster as a social studies & humanities teacher at Webster Schroeder High School. He then served as our district's K-12 director of social studies and library programs from 2007-2012. In this role, Mr. Wilcox was instrumental in leading a team of 60 educators across 11 buildings in developing a comprehensive K-12 curriculum. He is an administrator committed to collaboration among faculty, staff, and families.

Mr. Wilcox left Webster in 2012 to become the director of curriculum and professional development for the Dubai American Academy in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. He was then named primary school principal for the Academy in 2013. As the Academy's primary school principal, he provided 760 students, 54 teachers, and 34 staff members with exemplary instructional and cultural leadership. During his time in Dubai, Mr. Wilcox implemented several impressive programs that enhanced balanced literacy, science standards, student support, development of school culture and identity, and excelled at overall school management.

Mr. Wilcox received his undergraduate degree from Harvard University, along with advanced degrees and educational administration certifications from the University of Missouri and SUNY Brockport. Webster is so fortunate to welcome Mr. Wilcox back to the Webster School District as the new principal of Plank Road South Elementary School.



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