

# News Release

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**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Wayne County students win college scholarships from Ficano's Vision Fund**

**What:** This year, 64 students out of 255 applicants in Wayne County will be awarded \$500 college scholarships from the Wayne County Vision Fund, a non-profit organization started by Executive Robert Ficano. The amount totals \$32,000. The fund has awarded nearly \$200,000 in scholarships to date. Applicants were required to have at least a 3.0 grade-point average, submit an essay and include recommendations from a principal or counselor.

**Who:** This class of scholarship winners represents high school seniors from across the county with a wide range of majors from business, pre-med and pre-law to biomedical engineering, athletic training, archeology and mortuary science. Among the winners who will be available for interviews:

**Emily Narkun** is a senior at John Glenn High School in Westland. Following high school graduation, Emily plans on entering the nursing program at Henry Ford Community College.

While growing up, her family was always short on money, Emily said in her essay. Emily's mom raised a family on her own. Tragedy and health issues struck Emily's family. Her sister Sarah died and one of her youngest brothers had a stroke.

Due to medical bills, as well as the struggle of raising kids on her own, Emily's mom took her children and moved in with their uncle.

School was Emily's get-away. It became her priority. She rarely missed school and focused on her homework in the evening. Up until October, 2007, Emily had excellent grades and perfect attendance. It was in October, 2007 that Emily and her younger cousin were struck by a car and hospitalized. Emily experienced severe facial lacerations, a fractured ankle and road rash up and down her arms and legs.

Emily Narkun has overcome more obstacles than most people have in one lifetime.



**Quentin Keys** will be graduating from Kettering High School in Detroit. Quentin's future goals include attending Eastern Michigan University, majoring in political science. Graduating as the President of the 2009 Senior Class, Quentin wants to continue holding elected office. He hopes one day to serve in local politics, move up to state government and then run for President of the United States.

Quentin stated in his application that "Being awarded this scholarship will enable me to pay for some college expenses. My future is a very bright one for me and my family. I can be the first to graduate with a bachelor's degree out of all my brothers and sisters. I plan to prove everyone wrong who told me that I'm not going to amount to anything."

The Wayne County Vision Fund believes that Quentin has already proved he will amount to great things.

**Amanda Poirier** attends Wayne Memorial High School in Wayne. Amanda hopes to continue her education in the field of nursing. Amanda's high school experience was very different from the traditional high school setting.

Following extremely serious family issues in the summer prior to entering the 11<sup>th</sup> grade, Amanda left her home and has lived with friends. Knowing that she had to support herself, Amanda got a job working in a restaurant. She pays for all of her food, clothing, car expenses and miscellaneous expenses.

Amanda never let her situation stop her. Through it all, Amanda maintained a very good grade point average, carried a rigorous course schedule, volunteered and participated in Upward Bound, Student Senate, National Honor Society and other activities.

Amanda Poirier maintains a positive attitude for her future and a vision for what life could possibly be. Amanda stated, "I really hope to reach high places in my future and I plan to begin by going to college."

**Where:** Luncheon at The Atheneum hotel, 1000 Brush, Detroit. Mistress of Ceremonies is Vickie Thomas from WWJ News Radio 950.

**When:** Program starts at 11:30 a.m., Thursday May 7, 2009

