

Four Macomb County students headed to service academies

[Don Gardner](#), The Macomb Daily 06/06/16



U.S. Congresswoman Candice Miller stands with service academy nominees from her district including, from left, Alexander Yeiser, United States Naval Academy; James Niemeyer, United States Military Academy at West Point; Miller; Jacob Lemelin, also headed to West Point; Alexander Stoyka, United States Merchant Marine Academy; and Stephen Rumsey, United States Air Force Academy.

Congresswoman Candice Miller said Macomb County “struck gold this year” with the announcement that four high school students from the Macomb County portion of her district have been appointed to attend military academies this fall.

This year’s appointees include: Jacob Lemelin of Macomb Township and Dakota High School, who will attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point; James Niemeyer of Ray Township and Lutheran North High School, who will also attend West Point; Alexander Stoyka of Chesterfield Township and De La Salle Collegiate High School, who will attend the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy; and Alexander Yeiser of Chesterfield Township and De La Salle Collegiate High School, who will attend the U.S. Naval Academy. Normally, Miller said, the 10th district only sees one or two appointees.

“Each of these distinguished students exhibit excellent academic achievements, as well as superb leadership qualities and outstanding community engagement. They are truly some of Michigan’s best and brightest,” Miller said.

Lemelin, who attends Dakota High School, has always wanted to serve the country since he received his first G.I. Joe toy as a young child. He said his uncle went to West Point, and he always wanted to be like him.

“I want to lead,” Lemelin added.

James Niemeyer, nattily attired with his American flag bowtie, said his dad served in the U.S. Army for 26 years, service that took James to military bases all across the country.

“That’s who I wanted to be like,” Niemeyer told Miller. “I’ve wanted to be in West Point since I was in the sixth grade.”

Niemeyer hopes to study cyber security for the U.S. Army. He considers the cyber-security program at West Point one of the best in the nation.

Alexander Yeiser told Miller being able to attend the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, fulfills a longtime goal. He said when he visited the facility, he fell in love with the campus and the people.

Alexander Stoyka said a visit to the Naval Station in Norfolk, Va is where he discovered his love of ships and ship building and architecture. He also served in the Sea Cadets out of Selfridge Air Force Base in Harrison Township.

“I always knew I wanted to serve,” Yeiser said. “I want to be in a place where honor and discipline are upheld.”

“We so appreciate what all of you are doing,” Miller concluded. “Everyone in Congress, regardless of party affiliation, takes this appointment program very seriously. Our country is making a very large investment in you.”