

Macomb County students recognized for anti-drug efforts



Macomb County Prosecutor Eric Smith with honoree Jordan Prisby of Lutheran North High School and John Brandt at the event at the Macomb Intermediate School District in Clinton Township. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Posted: 04/14/18, 7:24 AM EDT | The Macomb Daily



Eleven of the students with Macomb County Prosecutor Eric Smith. The students include Christina Ahee, Kaylee Misuraca, Valarie Ward, Vanessa Curtis, Ra’Naa Murphy, Jordan Prisby, Ashley Nelson, Brittany Berendt, Kendall Rogers, Iylish Devota and Catriona Munro.

Macomb County Prosecutor Eric Smith said it is “beyond refreshing” to recognize positive, high-achieving students in light of more than 50 arrests of teens for making threats or false threats against schools over the past several weeks.

Smith on Tuesday honored 17 students for their efforts at school and with 13 school-community anti-drug coalitions in the county, at the Macomb Intermediate School District in Clinton Township.

“At a time when each and every day we hear of students making poor choices, threatening violence towards schools and classmates, it is beyond refreshing to be able to honor our exceptional student leaders,” Smith said. “It is with great pride that I recognize these students for all of the outstanding work they are doing. Not only are they making positive choices in their own lives, but also serving as role models for their peers and younger students. Their valor is to be admired and their dedication to be applauded.”

Meanwhile, 54 Macomb County youths -- including 11 being treated as adults in the courts because they are 17 or older -- have been charged with making a threat or false threat against a school or students since the Feb. 14 mass shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., where 17 people died.

Smith said his office appreciates the opportunity to work with the coalitions since they play a “vital role” in an effort to reduce substance abuse in the community.

“Coalitions succeed or fail based on the response and participation of our youth,” he said.

The students and coalitions honored were sophomore Robin Daughtery of New Haven High School and the Bay Haven Coalition; senior Christina Ahee of Chippewa Valley High School and junior Kaylee Misuraca of Dakota High School, both of the Chippewa Valley Coalition for Youth and Families; junior Valerie Ward of Eastpointe High School and the Eastpointe coalition; junior Vanessa Curtis of Fraser High School and the Fraser coalition; senior Ra’Naa Murphy of L’Anse Creuse High School and senior Tori Conklin of L’Anse Creuse North High School, both of the L’Anse Creuse Community Action Coalition; Jordan Prisby of Lutheran North High School and Lutheran North Example; junior Ashley Nelson of Mount Clemens High School and the Mount Clemens coalition; eighth-grader Brittany Berendt of Romeo Middle School and the Northwest Prevention Coalition; senior Ashley Adkins of Roseville High School and the Roseville Community Coalition; sophomore Catriona Munro of Stevenson High School of T3; senior Brianna Atkinson of Henry Ford II High School and Utica Community Action Team; Riley “Brandon” Ministrelli of Wolfe Middle School, Namera Ramesha of Cousino High School and senior Kendall Rogers of Van Dyke High School, all three of the Warren Center Line Coalition; and Ilyish Devota of Henry Ford High School II and the Sterling Heights Drug Free Coalition.

School officials provided a description of students.

“Namera is a star student at Cousino High School,” an official wrote about Namera Ramesha. “She has earned a 4.6 GPA even with her numerous AP classes. She has a sweet personality and the enthusiasm to always go above and beyond.”

Of Tori Conklin of L’Anse Creuse, an official wrote she has been a “leader in the coalition” since seventh grade.

“She has continued to grow not only as an amazing student but as an individual. Tori is a wonderful young lady and has represented the L’Anse Creuse Community Action Coalition in numerous ways with her personality and leadership skills.”

Vanessa Curtis of Fraser started the support group, Friends Raising Awareness While Maintaining and Emphasizing Stability, which now meets in Mount Clemens and “is growing,” an official said.

Each student received a certificate and gift card, and each coalition received a check from the Prosecutor’s Office drug forfeiture fund.

-- *Jameson Cook, The Macomb Daily*