



"Cultural Heart of the Litchfield Hills"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KENT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES WINNER OF ITS THIRD SCHOLARSHIP

Kent, CT, June 23, 2016 – The Kent Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the winner of its third scholarship. Chosen from an impressive field of young people is Abigail LaFontan of Kent. Abigail just graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School and will attend UConn/Storrs in August to study political science in their prestigious Honors Program.

As per the scholarship guidelines, each applicant had to be a member of the Chamber of Commerce, an employee of a Chamber business or an immediate family member of either. Abigail and her mother, Maria LaFontan, both work at the Kent Memorial Library, a long-time member of the Kent Chamber of Commerce.

Abigail has an excellent academic record, was the Jazz Band President, was twice-awarded the Sportmanship Award for the Varsity Soccer team and was the Track & Field Captain. In addition to working part-time at the Kent Memorial Library, she volunteers for their Annual Gala and at the First Congregational Church of Kent. Abigail also works on her family's farm, Mountain View Farm. She manages the farm stands and works in the fields planting, weeding, irrigating and harvesting vegetables as well as caring for the animals. Working and living on the farm has given her a high appreciation for small, local business and a healthy lifestyle and realizes farming is a clear example of hard work that pays off.

The Scholarship Committee, consisting of Peter D’Aprile, Paul Tines and Richard Lindsey, was hard-pressed to make a selection as all applicants had excellent credentials including solid grades and extracurricular activities that ranged from sports to charitable organizations and part time jobs. They noted that these are the young people who don’t make the 6 o’clock news and who give hope for the future. Each applicant was asked to list three words to describe him or herself and then write one sentence explaining why that word was selected. Abigail describes herself as intelligent, perceptive and caring.

Funds for the scholarship come from a portion of the net proceeds from various events sponsored by the Kent Chamber of Commerce, including the Kent Pumpkin Run (celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year) and the Kent Champagne Stroll.

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Abigail LaFonon, 2016 Kent Chamber of Commerce Scholarship winner, at the HVRHS graduation and receiving congratulations from Chamber President, Peter D’Aprile.