

# **NEWS RELEASE:**

At this year's annual conference in Myrtle Beach, SC on February 16, 2021, one of the highlights of the 26<sup>th</sup> NSPMA & 51<sup>st</sup> South Carolina SPMA Conference was the announcement of the scholarship award recipients for the student graduates of this year's senior class.

The National School Plant Management Association (NSPMA) seeks to assist qualified students who are continuing their education by offering scholarships to those pursuing a Technical/ Trade Certification, Associates or Bachelor of Facilities / Engineering degree. This year we were once again very successful in getting 26 applications for the four (4) one thousand (\$1000.00) dollar scholarship awards to deserving students making our Scholarship and Award Committee's selection work extremely difficult. Each child is always a worthy applicant.

Each of the 26 applicants was required to complete and submit their scholarship application by December 15, 2020. The total number of scholarship awards is based on the NSPMA Scholarship Trust Funds. Awards are based on the selection criteria of financial need, academic achievement, co-curricular participation, community service and essay response. The topic for this year's essay was: ***"How a clean, well maintained and safe school environment makes a difference in a student's education?"***

For the past four years Arkansas students have submitted the most scholarship applicants with New Jersey making a strong second place submission. So it is not surprising that at least two scholarship awards went to an Arkansas students and one each to a student from New Jersey and Virginia as noted below:

- **Deniz Erdag, Little Rock Central High School, Arkansas**, plans to pursue a degree in *Electrical Engineering* at Columbia University School of Engineering
- **Madison Gray, Fordyce High School, Arkansas**, plans to pursue a degree in *Kinesiology* at Ouachita Baptist University
- **Jonathan Bane, Virginia, Don Tyson School of Innovation, Springdale, Arkansas**, plans to pursue an *Industrial Maintenance Certification* at Northwest Arkansas Technical Institute, Arkansas
- **John Leahy, Middle Township School District, New Jersey**, plans to pursue a degree in *Computer and Electrical Engineering* at an institute to be decided

On behalf of the NSPMA Board and Scholarship Awards Committee, we want to thank all of our association members and vendor partners with their assistance/support in making these scholarships available each year.

AJ Nordt, CPE, CEFM  
NSPMA Scholarship and Awards Committee Chairperson  
[acnjsbga@aol.com](mailto:acnjsbga@aol.com)  
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