

Suburban Life recognizes area student scholars

By **BOB RAKOW**

brakow@shawmedia.com

Suburban Life Media and the DuPage Credit Union honored some of the best high school seniors in the western suburbs May 3 at the Suburban Life Scholars Awards Reception at Seven Bridges Golf Club in Woodridge.

Forty-four students from public and private schools received certificates for their accomplishments, and two students, James Kenneally of IC Catholic Prep in Elmhurst and Lydia Walsh-Rock of Downers Grove South High School, each received a \$2,000 scholarship.

Kenneally has accepted an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy.

"I've always been interested in serving my country," he said.

Kenneally credited his family, teachers and friends for helping him succeed in high school.

"It's definitely the support system," he said. "They helped motivate me."

Walsh-Rock will attend the University of Illinois and plans to major in physics.

She said her extensive involvement at Downers Grove South helped her achieve her goals.

"Being involved in a lot of things has helped me," Walsh-Rock said.

Suburban Life recognized area students as Suburban Life Scholars from September 2016 through March 2017, based on nominations from teachers, administrators and counselors.

The media group narrowed down honorees to a group of finalists for the scholarships, and DuPage Credit Union selected the winners.

"It is a true honor to recognize the great talent we have in the communities we serve," said Laura Shaw, director of niche publishing for Shaw Media. "The Suburban Scholars program gives us an opportunity to share these stories and celebrate our students' successes."



Mark Busch - mbusch@shawmedia.com

DuPage Credit Union Community Development Manager Pamela Niestrom (left) and Shaw Media Director of Niche Publishing Laura Shaw (right) present \$2,000 scholarships to James Kenneally from IC Catholic Prep in Elmhurst and Lydia Walsh-Rock from Downers Grove South High School during the Suburban Life Scholars Awards Reception hosted by Suburban Life Media and the DuPage Credit Union on May 3 at Seven Bridges Golf Club in Woodridge.

2016-17 Suburban Life scholars

■ **Addison Trail High School:** Ryan Cabildo, Lilia Garcia, Klea Gjonja, Alex Gunnerson, Jonathan Loi, Annalise Morrone, Veronique Robins
■ **Benet Academy:** Andrea Cruz, Katie Ford, Madison Gabouer, Noah Scott Helm, Alexandra Munson, Joseph Ravichandran, Katherine Telford
■ **Downers Grove North:** Anthony Castelvechchi, Natalie Flynn, Emily Grigg,

Abigail J. Murphy, Bianca Spalla, Christopher Wilford

■ **Downers Grove South:** Valerie Blackmore, Karina Kling, Vanessa Patino, Jon Joshua Urgello, Lydia Walsh-Rock

■ **Hinsdale South High School:** Brian Rudolph

■ **IC Catholic Prep:** Kaitlyn Grady, James Kenneally, Robert Vitek

■ **St. Francis High School:** Elizabeth

Allgaier, Katherine England, Calista Furlano, Katherine Granbom, Victoria Martin, Lillian Rodriguez, Katherine Kubik

■ **Willowbrook High School:** Mustafa Ali, Kyla Denwood, Pierre Easley, Vineet Patel, Valentina Poggi, Tim Wagner, Makena Walsh

■ **York Community High School:** Amelia "Molly" O'Halloran