



Judith L. Snow Award Winners 2016

All of the students chosen for this award are exemplary ethical leaders. Each student knows his or her core values and has the courage to live by them in all parts of his or her life in service to the common good. Each student has the courage to live by these values even when faced with peer pressure to do otherwise. Each is a principled ethical leader who leads with integrity, selflessness, dependability, caring and fairness.

These four students are all outstanding examples of ethical leaders in our middle schools. It is my great pleasure to present them to the members of District 64's Board of Education as the 2016 Judith L. Snow Ethical Leadership Award winners.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Frances Cook, Chair
Judith L. Snow Ethical Leadership Committee

EMERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Ravi Finn leads by doing. He is a Soaring Eagle at Emerson Middle School and not only assists with incoming 6th grade students to ensure a smooth adjustment to middle school, but also serves as a role model for 7th and 8th grade students throughout the year. He also participated in the selection process for the next year's Soaring Eagles leadership team. Ravi is a very active member of his church and holds an official "recommend" to attend the Mormon Temple, which requires strict adherence to the high moral principles practiced in his religion. He is appointed as the President of the Deacon's Quorum, which means that his responsibilities include planning meetings for the organization of youth, organization of the passing of the sacrament, finding substitutes for missing members, and teaching the routes of the passing of the sacrament. As well, Ravi teaches Sunday school to his peers once a month. He is also a member of the Young Men's group for his church and meets regularly with the group, which provides service projects for the community including volunteering at the food pantry, cleaning and maintaining church grounds and serving various roles at retirement communities and hospitals. In his school community, Ravi serves as a leader in the Emerson Chamber Orchestra by being a mentor for more junior members. Teachers, parents, and church leaders consistently recognize Ravi as a leader with outstanding attributes and a very endearing personality. In his words, "I believe that this development of my character will assist me throughout my life with success and compassion for all."

Daniela Milito is a positive, dedicated student and leader. She begins her essay with: “I would like to say, I am not perfect. I make mistakes. Many worse than others, but that’s what makes me human. These mistakes may do harm on the initial surface, but throughout my life, these mistakes are what make me who I am. I am an honest, conscientious, trustworthy, committed, and caring person. Every day I live to work for those values.” Daniela is an involved member of her school community as a part of the Orchestra as well as her peer community, participating in club volleyball and travel soccer. In addition, Daniela serves as a volunteer for CURE SMA, which is an organization that leads research and programs to help cure Spinal Muscular Atrophy. She travels to the national conference and assists in caring for children who have SMA as well as their siblings while their parents are at the conference learning more about the disease. Daniela is involved in her church in many capacities, but three events that stood out in her essay were the packing of seeds for 350 families in Zimbabwe and other countries, packing care packages for prisoners to show them “there are people out there that care along with God,” and helping with a Christmas party at a homeless shelter in Chicago. Daniela is on the right track to becoming a contributing member of our Park Ridge Community and, in her words, “working fearlessly towards my goal of being a respected young adult and a leader to my peers.”

LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Charlotte Geier is a caring and dependable individual and has worked to embrace leadership skills “academically, socially, and emotionally.” Academically, Charlotte often takes the lead in group projects and tries to increase communication among group members as well as getting members to agree on a common path. Socially and emotionally, Charlotte has been a camp counselor for three years at Camp WeHaKee, where she works with many kids from different countries, different cultures, and speaking different languages in order to learn from each other and participate in a variety of activities. As well, Charlotte is involved in a variety of community-based events/activities, including the student Green Team at Lincoln Middle School, Young Adult Loft at the Park Ridge Library, the Maine Township Food Panty. Charlotte also is a part of the WEB leadership at Lincoln Middle School, where she works to welcome incoming 6th graders as well as provide role modeling for peers in the 7th and 8th grades. It has been noted that whatever Charlotte is doing, she is doing it with a smile. Charlotte is also known for her kindness – talking to someone in the hall between classes, complimenting a girl on her outfit even if she does not know her, and babysitting for neighbors without charge as a mom runs to the store or goes to pick up a sibling at an activity. Charlotte looks forward to continuing to develop and utilize her leadership skills in high school as well as through life overall.

Greta Miller is a well-rounded individual with strong ethics whether she is helping with chores around the house, volunteering through her church, or lending a hand to neighbors and the elderly. Greta strives to set a good example on a daily basis. She is a strong believer that committing “small acts of kindness” is an important part of this daily goal. Small acts of kindness include, but are not limited to, writing a letter to a friend who is struggling on a particular day, bringing in snacks for a class discussion, sharing a smile in the hallway, and

encouraging others to listen and not just talk during group discussions. She not only excels in committing these acts in the classroom and around school, but also is a talented three-sport athlete participating in volleyball, basketball, and soccer. She was selected captain of her soccer team as she consistently demonstrated good sportsmanship and good effort by attending all practices and games, helping to contribute to warm up exercises and organizing the team for scrimmages, and standing up for players that were having a bad game or missed a shot or block. As a team captain, her goal is to see all players treated fairly and improve communication to include everyone in the team, in the play, in the win, and in the loss. She also feels strongly about giving back to her community by assisting with PADS through her church, and by attending “Feed My Starving Children” and “Day of Service” events. Greta is an outstanding leader and role model. She leads by example and inspires others around her to do their best. In her words, “I lead a path for my peers and look to the future with hope and kindness.”

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