

News Release



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Marine Trades Association of New Jersey Foundation Announces 2019 Scholarships and Educational Awards

Manasquan, NJ – The Marine Trades Association of New Jersey (MTA/NJ) Foundation is pleased to announce the winners of their 2019 scholarships and educational awards. Since 2006, the MTA/NJ Education Foundation has awarded over \$25,000 to deserving students and has provided over \$10,000 towards marine education and training for members.

A new MTA/NJ Boating Industry Scholarship is now offered to a student pursuing a career in the recreational boating industry, as one of the goals of the MTA/NJ Foundation is to provide financial support dedicated to growing the recreational marine trades' workforce in New Jersey. The MTA/NJ Boating Industry Scholarship, valued at \$1,500, was presented to Kyle Rush of Linwood. Kyle has already gained industry experience working as both a first mate on a private fishing charter boat and a deck hand at a local marina. He plans to attend Marine Mechanics Institute in Florida in the fall and then return to New Jersey after graduation to begin his career in the marine industry.

The MTA/NJ Family Scholarship, valued at \$1,500, is open to MTA/NJ members' children and their employees' children and can be applied to any higher education program. The MTA/NJ Family Scholarship was created in 2014 to give back to our members who generously support the Foundation and help students achieve their educational and career goals. The 2019 MTA/NJ Family Scholarship was awarded to Jenna DiLorenzo of Monmouth Beach, NJ. Jenna will begin her freshman year at Penn State University this fall where she plans to study business. Jenna's father Joseph is a Senior Scientist at Najarian Associates in Eatontown.

The MTA/NJ also awarded an outstanding student award for the purchase of tools for the trade to Tyler Goldsmith from the Ocean County Vocational Technical School. Tyler is graduating from the 2-year Marine Trades program at Ocean County Vocational Technical School with a 93 average. He participated in the NJ State SkillsUSA Marine Service Technology contest where he won the bronze medal. Tyler intends to attend Marine Mechanics Institute in Florida in the fall and work towards a Mercury Marine Master Technician Certification.

In addition to scholarships, the MTA/NJ Foundation is aggressively working to address workforce issues through marine training reimbursements, industry certification courses, and education and training in the

classroom and on the job for members and their employees. This year, the MRAA Educational Foundation's MTA Technical Scholarship funds were awarded through the new MTA/NJ Technical Training Scholarship program. The MTA/NJ created this scholarship as a way to expand its Foundation's support of members with their training and certification needs. As a result, two members of the MTA/NJ, selected by the MTA/NJ Education Committee, were awarded full scholarships to attend the ABYC's Marine Systems Certification Course. The winners of the Technical Training Scholarship were Jack Wollner of Monmouth Marine Engines in Brielle and Ben Castrogiovanni of Bridge Marina in Lake Hopatcong. The MTA/NJ Foundation has provided over \$10,000 for training since 2014 and plans to continue to offer this scholarship every year.

“We are incredibly thankful to everyone who has contributed to and continues to support the MTA/NJ Education Foundation,” stated MTA/NJ Executive Director, Melissa Danko. “Through the Foundation, we are able to support our members by providing scholarships and student awards as well as funding for education, training, and certifications to grow and expand our workforce. We look forward to growing the Foundation even more to be able to further support the boating industry in New Jersey.”

For more information about the MTA/NJ Foundation or to make a donation, please contact the MTA/NJ office at 732-292-1051; email: info@mtanj.org.

About the MTA/NJ

The Marine Trades Association of New Jersey (MTA/NJ), established in 1972, is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting, advancing, and protecting the recreational marine industry and waterways in the State of New Jersey. The MTA/NJ is dedicated to the interests of the industry for the benefit of its individual members and the consumers whom they serve. In addition to many accomplishments, the MTA/NJ produces two boat shows, the Jersey Shore Boat Sale & Expo held in September at FirstEnergy Park in Lakewood and the New Jersey Boat Sale & Expo held in February at the New Jersey Convention & Expo Center in Edison. The MTA/NJ proudly endorses the Progressive Insurance Atlantic City Boat Show.