

# News Release



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 17, 2021

Contact: Melissa Danko

P. 732.292.1051; [mdanko@mtanj.org](mailto:mdanko@mtanj.org)

## **Marine Trades Association of New Jersey Foundation Announces 2021 Scholarships and Educational Awards**

**Brielle, NJ** – The Marine Trades Association of New Jersey (MTA/NJ) Foundation is pleased to announce the winners of their 2021 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.

The MTA/NJ Boating Industry Scholarship is 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 \$1,000, was presented to Andrew Bayles of Toms River. Andrew has already gained industry experience working at Shore Point Marina in Pine Beach and has excelled in the Marine Service Technology program at Ocean County Vocational Technical School. He will attend the Automotive Training Center in Warminster, PA this fall to continue his studies and become a marine technician.

The MTA/NJ Family Scholarship, valued at \$1,000, 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 2021 MTA/NJ Family Scholarship was awarded to Christopher DeSousa of Oceanport. Christopher will begin his freshman year at Penn State University this fall with a likely focus in business studies. Evan's father Brian DeSousa is President of Bay Agency Insurance Group in Rumson.

In addition, the Automotive Training Center in Warminster, Pennsylvania sponsored a half scholarship to their Marine Technician Program that the MTA/NJ administers and promotes. The recipient of the Automotive Training Center scholarship was Joseph Monteferrante of Audubon. Joseph is graduating from Audubon High School. After completing his educational training, Joseph plans to become a marine technician and hopes to someday own his own marina.

“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 hope to continue to grow the Foundation and further expand our support of 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](mailto: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.