

# Village of Tinley Park

## News Release



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### **Tinley students receive scholarships for community service**

Eight graduating high school seniors on May 5 were awarded \$1,000 scholarships from Tinley Park for their community service.

Recipients included Michelle Andersen, Alexa Benakovich, Molly Blitstein, Brooke Burns, Amanda Campbell and Emily Evans from Andrew High School; Marissa Politano from Tinley Park High School; and Matthew Prusak from Lincoln Way North High School.

The scholarship was sponsored by the Community Resources Commission and recognizes Tinley Park students for outstanding community service while maintaining academic excellence.

Andersen is planning to attend Valparaiso University and major in education, social work or psychology. She has served as a volunteer at the Tinley Court Retirement Center for two years. She said her work at the retirement home has led her to know that she is on the right career path.

Benakovich is planning to attend Ball State University and major in actuarial science and mathematics. She has participated in mission trips to Cairo, IL and Ohio. She also has served as a teacher's aide at Millennium School.

Blitstein is planning to attend the University of Wisconsin and major in elementary education. Her activities outside of school include volunteering with the Fairy Tale Theatre, Operation Snowflake and the Tinley Park Public Library.

“Operational Snowflake not only taught me the effects of drugs and alcohol, but it taught me how to work as a team and accept myself,” Blitstein said.

(more)

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Burns is planning to attend Grand Valley State University and major in psychology and occupational therapy. Her after-school activities include being a counselors aide at Zion Lutheran Church, working the soup kitchen at St. Elizabeth Seton, and being an equipment volunteer at Palos Community Hospital.

Campbell is planning to attend Illinois State University in Normal, IL in the fall. She plans on majoring in elementary education. She volunteered at Camp Manitoqua, Operation Snowflake for Kirby School District 140 and St. Colletta's Foundation, among others.

Evans goes on many mission trips through her church each summer and plans to attend the University of South Carolina, majoring in Spanish and international business.

"Every year when I return to Tinley I realize that my hometown truly has everything I could ever ask for and more," Evans said.

Politano plans to attend Illinois State University in Normal, IL, and major in medical laboratory science. She keeps busy by being a princess for the Orland Park Park District's "Cinderella" program every February.

Politano said she "(thinks) about other people before myself, which is the exact feeling you should have when volunteering somewhere."

Prusak will be majoring in architectural drafting at Moraine Valley Community College. He has spent more than 1,000 hours working on stage productions, doing everything from building scenery to being behind the television camera. When he's not at school, he's volunteering at the Tinley Park TV studio filming and editing local television shows.

"Communication helps the town's spirit and sense of community," Prusak said.

The winners said they were more than happy and proud to apply this scholarship to their school or university of their choice.

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