

June 2017 – and the GHCLA and the GHC have continued our generous tradition of encouraging area students. This spring our organizations awarded a total of six \$1000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors in our community. We have now given \$65,000 to deserving high school graduates since the year 2000.

Cameron Dungey



Springstead High School (GHC Award)
Career Goal - engineering
University of Central Florida

Works at Publix
High Honors, 7 dual enrollment courses
Key Club
Over 100 hours community service
Ranks 77/405

Marissa Flaherty

Weeki Wachee High School (GHCLA Award)
Career Goal – surgeon
Stetson University

AP classes, dual enrollment. Has earned 60 college credits.

Marching band

Varsity letter in soccer 4 years

Ranks 37/334

Over 500 community service hours

Her father died before she was born. There have been other family financial setbacks. A sister has recently been diagnosed with cancer.

Kara Nelson



Springstead High School (GHCLA Award)
Career goal – pediatrician
University of Central Florida

Ranks 101/405

Works at Salishan

Enrolled in Allied Health Program which leads to CNA certification

Cheerleading captain 3 years

Homecoming court all 4 years

Active in church youth group and summer missions' trips

Parents were arrested in 2005 for drug possession; mom is still in prison. Her grandma adopted Kara and her 2 siblings so they wouldn't be placed in foster care.

Victoria Pereira

Weeki Wachee High School (GHC Award)
Career Goal – veterinarian
Accepted at 6 schools. Will attend University of Florida

Works at Hernando YMCA as a lifeguard
National Honor Society
Has earned her associate's degree from PHSC through dual enrollment
Student Government
Band, Key Club
Ranks 49/334
Her dad died last year, leaving her mom and 2 siblings.

Regina Sameri



Central High School (GHCLA Award)
Career Goal – Nurse and eventually Nurse Practitioner
Florida College

Ranks 77/247
Varsity Soccer
Works at Chefs of Napoli
Volunteer at Oak Hill Hospital and Spring Hill Rehab
Works with special needs students at Central High
Single parent mom with 2 younger siblings

Yenissa Smith



Weeki Wachee High School (GHCLA Award)
Career Goal – Diagnostic Medical Sonography
Keiser University

Works at Metro PCS.
AP and Dual Enrollment classes.
Math tutor.
Colorguard captain.
Honor Roll, highest GPA in Vespa, the top musical group at WWHS
Ranks 17/333
Single parent mom and younger sister.

Quote from recommendation: "People look to her for friendship and support.... She lights up the room with her joy for living..."

Members of the 2017 scholarship committee were Bev Ali, Lois Jensen, Terry McConnell, Rose Soulis, and co-chairs Kathy Welch and Kathy Hackemer.