

2013 NJNAHRO SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The New Jersey Chapter of NAHRO provides annual scholarships to eligible program participants. The scholarships are for \$8,000.00 each (\$2,000 per year). This year's scholarships went to 3 very deserving, impressive and talented young individuals. NJNAHRO'S Scholarship Program is a major commitment of the organization to make a difference in the life of young students throughout the state. Each year, scholarship money is awarded to high school seniors in rent subsidized families who wish to attend either college or vocational school. This year's Scholarship Committee was chaired by Janice DeJohn, Executive Director of the Passaic County Public Housing Agency. Committee members included Louis Riccio, Executive Director of the Madison Housing Authority, Joseph M. Billy, Executive Director of Summit, and Douglas Dzema, Executive Director of the Perth Amboy Housing Authority. According to Ms. DeJohn, "There has been more competition in recent years for these scholarships. We hope in the future that we can expand opportunities for young people and our industry by exploring the option of an internship program." Janice DeJohn-Scholarship Committee Chairperson



My name is Tianna Tucker and I will be attending Pennsylvania State University in the fall. Graduating from high school with a 3.4 grade point average and transforming into a college student is all new to me and I don't really know what to expect. As a little girl, I always knew that I wanted to work in the fashion world. Growing up, I then decided that I wanted to own a business. Helping others express themselves through fashion isn't like saving someone from a burning building like a firefighter, but it's giving someone a chance to be who they are. I know that owning a clothing store will not be easy, but it will all be worth in in the end. Being cheerleading captain my senior year in high school, I've gained the responsibility and confidence to strive for my goals. I believe that it's not always about getting goals and dreams, it's about making your goals and dreams happen.

Kirsten Meneses, a graduate of Hawthorne High School, achieved a 3.7 grade point average. Kirsten was active in the journalism club, yearbook, Adventurers club, and Pathfinders club. She also played basketball and found the time to volunteer at both a local food pantry and the Boys and Girls Club. She was inducted into the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society. Kirsten plans to attend Bergen County Community College. According to Kirsten, "I greatly and sincerely appreciate the NJNAHRO Board for selecting me. I will use the scholarship wisely and will reciprocate the act of helping others in return".



Wei K. (Jackie) King, was born in Taipei, Taiwan, and lived there until the age of 5 when his family immigrated to the USA. After they came to the US, they did not have permanent housing and relocated numerous times, from relatives and friends to substandard housing. In 2008, Jackie moved into the Peer Place Family Housing Complex located in Denville, owned by the Housing Authority of the County of Morris. Being raised by a single father, public housing gave Jackie and his older brother a multitude of opportunities. He did not have to constantly worry about starting anew, because he finally had a place he could call home. Jackie is a graduate of the Academy for Health Care Sciences at the Morris County School of Technology, where he excelled as a scholar and athlete. Captain of the Varsity Basketball Team, Jackie also participated in an organization known as HOSA. This competitive organization administers vigorous tests to evaluate an individual's knowledge in the field of medicine. Jackie is a HOSA nationalist and medaled in regional and state competitions in the field of nutrition.

Jackie believes Public Housing provided him the opportunity to concentrate on becoming a better person in life and achieve new milestones set forth by him and others. Jackie states that “without the help of Public Housing, none of this would have been possible” he further states that “he will be forever indebted to the providers of such a wondrous thing. He wishes to applaud and thank everyone involved with this opportunity from the bottom of his heart.