

2014 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

2014 Recipients

Jayhna Sheppard – Housing Authority of the City of Passaic

Jayhna graduated high school with a 3.5 grade point average. Her extra-curricular activities in school included softball, volleyball, and environmental club. In addition to her activities, Jayhna has been employed at the Passaic Housing Authority and actively participates in volunteer work involving feeding the homeless in her community. Her special interests include reading and writing poetry. Jayhna is looking forward to attending Western Kentucky University in the fall. Jayhna, who is grateful to receive this scholarship, believes that "I can do and be whatever I want if I set my heart and mind to it."

Barsis Faris – Bayonne Housing Authority

Barsis' family immigrated to the United States from Egypt when she was a child. She has achieved a 3.62 grade point average while in high school. Her academic accomplishments include National Honors Society, and United States Achievement Academy. She participated on the Math Team, Spirit Club, Peer Club, and Middle Eastern Club. In her spare time, Barsis has volunteered her services to young children at a local nursery. She will be studying mathematics at Rutgers University. According to Barsis, "America has opened the doors to my family for a better future". She will use the scholarship towards attaining her dream to pursue her studies and establish a successful career.

Najee Franklin-Hickenbottom – Housing Authority of Morris County

Najee achieved a 3.86 grade point average in high school. He was in the World Language Honor Society and the English Honor Society. He was also involved in the Spanish Club and volunteered his time to the local Rotary Club. Najee enjoys reading, jogging, swimming and basketball. He will be attending Northeastern University, where he plans on becoming the first member of his immediate family to obtain a college degree. He has a future interest in attending medical school, and realizes "the importance of a college education in order to continue to move forward."