

2020 Trailblazer Honorees

AAUW Carlisle recognizes the students listed below as our 2020 Trailblazer honorees. Congratulations! These students have been selected based on the following criterion: good citizenship at school, enthusiasm for their Program of Study, and academic competence with passing grades in all courses.

Our second Trailblazers Girls' Recognition Event had been scheduled for Monday, April 6 but, in light of the Covid-19 Pandemic, this public event was cancelled. In keeping with our mission to support girls and women, AAUW Carlisle celebrates high school girls who choose Career and Technical Education Programs of Study. This idea evolved from recognizing girls in STEM programs, who are likely to receive recognition elsewhere, to recognition of girls who are pursuing study in vocational or technical fields.

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research. AAUW recognizes that many high school students face pressure to attend four-year colleges from sources at school, at home, and in the wider community and culture. Girls who are interested in non-traditional tracks in high school, such as health care, culinary arts, or automotive technology, may not receive positive support or recognition. The combined impact of these influences may persuade some young women to pursue four-year degrees, often accompanied with heavy college debts, when a vocational diploma or later study at a community college or trade school better suits their career goals.

We are very proud to be able to celebrate the accomplishments of our honorees and regret that we were unable to recognize them publicly with a public face-to-face event.

AAUW Carlisle is very grateful to Dr. Albert Parrillo, Director of Careers & Technology, and to Leigh Hamilton, for their help and support in planning our Trailblazers Girls' Recognition.

2020 Trailblazers Committee
Barb Attivo, Carolyn Freberg, Jeanna Som, Lillian Wong
Gail D'Urso, Chair

Congratulations!

RAVYN BYERS
EDITA DEDIC
KYLIE DENLINGER
KAYSHA EVERETT
SAVANNAH HOSFIELD
CIERRA JONES

MADISON RICHWINE
TONI SPROUSE
JANIE THOMPSON
KAYLEIGH WACHTMAN
SIERRA YOUNG

RAVYN BYERS played softball for Carlisle High School and is a member of a bowling league. She volunteers at Kings Gap and Project SHARE and has worked a number of part-time jobs. She loved her two years of Medical Terminology and Procedures courses at CHS and has decided to become a nurse. She describes her greatest strengths as patience, dedication, and trustworthiness. She believes each of these qualities is essential to becoming a good nurse. Her grandparents have been influential in her life. They make sacrifices to help Ravyn and always encourage her to do her best. She will be attending Harrisburg Area Community College in the fall while working at Chapel Point and hopes to earn her RN or LPN in the next few years.

KYLIE DENLINGER will be attending Pennsylvania State University, Mont Alto Campus in the fall to pursue a BS in Nursing. She describes her greatest strengths as compassion, a strong work ethic, and an eagerness to learn, all of which will serve her well as she works towards her goal. Kylie enjoys playing volleyball and riding horses in her free time. She credits her mother as her biggest influence and she strives to be as kind, selfless, and caring as her mom. Kylie will continue working and playing volleyball during the summer and looks forward to beginning her studies in the fall.

KAYSHA EVERETT has enlisted in the military and attended Basic Training in the summer of 2019. She describes her greatest strengths as being hard working and independent. She enjoys fast-paced work and tries her hardest to complete whatever she starts. Her close friends and her father have been strong influences on the young woman she has become. Kaysha learned to cook while she was growing up and discovered that she loves it. She participated in the Culinary Arts Program while in high school and hopes to attend college in the future.

EDITA DEDIC explored potential careers in the course “Introduction to Medical Careers” as a high school junior. Edita’s friends often turn to her when they need to talk about important concerns. She describes her greatest strengths as her dependability, patience, and compassion, all important qualities for people working in the helping professions. Her teachers have had a strong influence on her and her parents have motivated her to pursue whatever she is most passionate about and, with their support, she will be doing just that. In the fall, Edita will attend the Pennsylvania State University in Altoona, where she will study Psychology.



SAVANNAH HOSFIELD plans to attend the University of Alabama to pursue a double major in biology and public health with an eventual goal of becoming a genetic counselor. Her strength of always putting her best into whatever task comes her way will serve her well as she pursues this goal. Savannah is an avid runner. She competed in cross country and track at CHS and will continue those interests in college. Savannah is a military child and credits her parents and their strong work ethics and their unfailing love and support as major influences of her life.

MADISON RICHWINE is interested in the health field. Her choice of career was narrowed to nursing after spending time visiting when her mother was hospitalized for two-weeks. She feels she has the qualities of organization, patience, optimism, and flexibility which will make her a good nurse. Madison is academically oriented, which will be important in her course work. Madison credits her dad as her coach, teacher and cheer leader. While he attempted to help her with Algebra, he did teach her how to be independent, how to change a tire, and most of all, the importance of attention to detail in whatever she does. She plans to attend Bloomsburg University in the fall to study nursing. She will focus on being an ER or ICU nurse, or maybe a flight nurse for Life Lion.

TONI SPROUSE participated in the Health Careers Program at Carlisle High School. For as long as she can remember, she has had a desire to help people and has been interested in a career in Physical Therapy. Toni considers herself both a leader and a team player, characteristics that will serve her well in the healthcare world. Toni credits her mother, a fantastic role model, for helping shape her into the young woman she is today. Toni was a cheerleader for the high school and hopes to continue cheering at College. In the fall, she will be attending Shenandoah University to pursue her dream of becoming a Physical Therapist.

CIERRA JONES considers herself to be a hardworking, determined, strong young woman. These qualities, combined with her desire to help people, have led her to pursue a career in the medical field. Both her mother and her sister work in health care and they have had an influence on Cierra's career direction. Cierra enjoys spending time with family and friends, reading, listening to music, and watching favorite TV shows. She plans to attend Harrisburg Area Community College and then transfer to a four-year school to complete her degree in the health care field.



JANIE THOMPSON loves working out, learning new things, and talking to people. She credits her parents and teachers for always encouraging her to put her best efforts forward in all she does. Janie feels that her greatest strength is her love for people. She is fascinated by anatomy and the human body and mind. These characteristics will serve her well as she pursues a career in nursing. Janie will continue working as a Certified Nursing Assistant while working on her RN and, ultimately, her BSN.



KAYLEIGH WACHTMAN has a love for children and compassion to help them heal following surgery. She became aware of her gifts following a personal surgical procedure. She is eager to learn and master new things as well as communicating effectively, necessary in her career choice. Her mother has had a great influence on Kayleigh and encourages her and her siblings, no matter how tough things can become. She plans to obtain her Associate's Degree from Harrisburg Area Community College, then transfer to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in pediatric nursing. While attending school, Kayleigh plans to work in a hospital or in a personal care center.

SIERRA YOUNG participated in the Health Careers Program at Carlisle High School. In addition to her schoolwork, she enjoys participating on both the high school swim team and soccer team. Sierra's greatest strengths are helping others, being active and healthy and being a leader. She has always liked helping people and is willing to do anything to assist them especially when it comes to promoting a healthy and active lifestyle. Her greatest desire is to help people stay healthy and get back to being active after they are hurt, particularly athletes. Sierra's mother has been her greatest influence as a caring and strong woman who will do whatever it takes to help people when they need it and has their best intentions in mind. In the fall, Sierra will be pursuing a degree in Physical Therapy at Lebanon Valley College and has plans to play soccer there as well.

