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Finalists for Golden Achievement Award Announced

Huntington – Principal Jason Finnie has announced the five senior class finalists for the Golden Achievement Award: Dayna Britland, Trevor Bruno, Anna Pless, Franky Tangredi, and Diana Tereshchuk. The Golden Achievement Award is Gateway’s most prestigious award and recognizes a member of the senior class who demonstrates outstanding leadership, scholarship and service throughout their high school career. The five nominees are selected by the senior class and the faculty will make the final determination of the winner.

Dayna M. Britland is well-known throughout the high school as a stand-out artist. She has raised money for student groups through the sale of her artwork and greeting cards, and her work was selected as the cover art for Perspectives Magazine her junior and senior years. Dayna has also been involved with Concert Band, National Honor Society, Yearbook, Tech Crew and Model United Nations, where she served as Historian. As a junior, she received numerous academic awards for band, art, English, biology, Spanish, Chemistry and woodshop. She was also received the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute’s Medal Award for outstanding math and science students, and the Rochester Institute of Technology’s Technology Innovation and Creativity Award. Dayna also played soccer for Gateway her freshman and sophomore years, and softball for the past 3 years, where she was selected to represent the team at the MIAA Student Athlete Citizenship Awards as a junior. This year, she was a state finalist for the Wendy’s High School Heisman Scholarship, based on leadership and athletic performance. She has been employed at Wendy’s restaurant and as a pet sitter, and volunteers with the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florida. Dayna is the daughter of Lisa and Christopher Britland of Worthington, and will attend the Rochester Institute of Technology in the fall.

Trevor A. Bruno served as Class President his sophomore year, and has been involved with Model United Nations, baseball and wrestling during his high school career. He volunteers at the Holyoke Soldiers Home, and has been employed by Westfield Feed, McDonald’s and delivering pizza. Last year, Trevor was selected by members of the American Legion to represent Gateway at Boys State. As a junior, he received the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship, the Rochester Institute of Technology Computing Medal Award, along with awards for excellence in Advanced Physics and Best in Honors Precalculus. He is the son of Lisa and Troy Bruno of Blandford and will attend Norwich University this fall to major in mechanical engineering.
Anna Y. Pless is a highly decorated member of the Gateway Concert Band (where she is President and Drum Major) and Jazz Band, earning top audition scores and a place in the Western Massachusetts Music Educators District Band all four years of high school on alto saxophone. She also earned a spot in the Massachusetts All-State Band this year. She is the president of the Class of 2017 and served as a student liaison to the Gateway Regional School Committee this year. She was also Yearbook Editor and took part in As Schools Match Wits, National Honor Society, Best Buddies, and Student Council. Along with Dayna Britland, Anna traveled to Costa Rica this year over spring break on a science and community service trip. She was selected by community leaders to attend Massachusetts Girls State last year, and also represented Gateway at MassSTAR, returning the following year as a junior facilitator. Outside of Gateway, Anna is a Workshop Team Leader at the Cornerstone Christian Church and volunteers as an Assistant to the Chester Town Clerk. She will attend the University of Massachusetts/Amherst this fall and major in Music and Music Education. Anna is the daughter of Kazue Pless of Chester and Bayard Pless of California.

Franky A. Tangredi is the son of Patricia Tangredi of Southwick and Francis Tangredi of Montgomery. He has been involved with National Honor Society, School Climate Group, and is a four year member of the Gateway Boys Soccer Team, serving as Captain his senior year. Last year, he received the United States Army Reserve National Scholar/Athlete Award, and was also honored for advanced physics, honors precalculus, advanced English II and wood technology. He was also selected by the local American Legion post to represent Gateway at Massachusetts Boys State last year. An active community member, Franky is a Montgomery Volunteer Fire Fighter and has volunteered with the Westfield River Canoe Races. He is employed at Gino’s “Hut” restaurant as manager of delivery operations. Franky will attend Greystone Preparatory at Shreiner University, and plans a military career with the U.S. Navy, specializing in Aerospace Engineering.

Diana A. Tereshchuk was recently honored by the Berkshire Bank Foundation, as one of 35 scholarship recipients from over 300 applicants from 6 northeastern states. She has been active with the Red Cross Club throughout high school, serving as a Red Cross Intern this year and organizing 3 community blood drives. She is the President of the National Honor Society, Class Treasurer, a member of the softball team, and a member of Student Council. As a junior, she received the Bryn Mawr College Book Award and Student Sage Scholar Award. In the community, Diana teaches Sunday School at her church. She is the daughter of Yekaterina and Anatoliy Tereshchuk of Russell, and will major in nursing at Elms College this fall.

The Golden Achievement winner will be announced—along with the Valedictorian and Salutatorian—at the Sr. Awards Assembly on Wednesday, May 31, which begins at 11:45 a.m. in the Gateway Performing Arts Center.  

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