

**Press Release from the Littleton Commissioners of Trust Funds**

**Littleton Trust Fund Scholarship Awards**

The Littleton Commissioners of Trust Funds announced the scholarship awards for 2017 from the F.M Kimball- Second Scholarship Fund and the John & Eunice Morrison Scholarship Fund totaling \$59,000 to 16 recipients. This year's awards included a \$10,000 scholarship to one of our outstanding recipients. Close to 60 applications were submitted for these scholarships.

This was the twenty first year for awards from the Kimball Fund that was established by H. Vincent Couper in honor of his uncle Frank M. Kimball. Mr. Kimball had established the original fund that enabled Vincent to earn a degree from the Massachusetts Agricultural College – now known as the University of Massachusetts in Amherst in the 1920's.

Mr. Couper, known as "Vince" was a very successful Littleton farmer who raised a variety of crops here in Littleton as well as in Florida. In addition to this scholarship he was very generous to the Reuben Hoar Library, the Children's Hospital in Boston, and the University of Massachusetts.

This is the fourth year of awards from the Morrison Fund. John and Eunice Morrison are probably best known as the former owners of what has become the last apple orchard in Littleton. John Morrison was a conservationist who ensured that the orchard, located at Nagog Hill and Nashoba Roads remain as agricultural land.

The recipients of awards this year were selected by the awards committee appointed by the Commissioners and were recognized by the Commissioners at an awards ceremony held on June 8<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall. They are as follows:

**Josh Whitcomb** - Josh is a 2015 graduate of Littleton High School, and has been attending the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. Entering his junior year in the fall, he studies history as well as the German language. Combining these two areas of study, he will be attending the University of Bamberg in southern Germany next year, observing German culture and language first hand.

**Nikita James** - Nikita is a recent graduate of Littleton HS with an outstanding record of academic achievement. She will be attending Brandeis University in the fall majoring in biochemistry with a long term goal of becoming a biomedical engineer or a physician. In addition to being in the National Honor Society while in high school, Nikita has been involved in a variety of volunteer experiences and has a unique interest in the arts.

**Isabella Goddard** – Isabella just completed her sophomore year at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield Connecticut with top academic performance. She is majoring in Exercise Science with a desire to achieve a Doctorate in Physical Therapy. At Sacred Heart she is active in the Dance Ensemble, a member of the Competition and Performance Kickline Dance Team and a Classroom Learning Assistant for the freshman seminar course, The Art of Thinking.

**Sujith Ramesh** – Sujith will pursue his degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering at Cornell. His intention is to work with embedded systems. An outstanding scholar (with a 4.91 GPA) he is also involved with humanitarian work and with athletics. He mentors middle school students and last year was invited back to the Rotary's Youth Leadership Program as a Group Facilitator, after attending as a participant.

**Diana Kumykova**- Diana is a 2017 graduate of Littleton High School, and will be attending Worcester Polytechnic Institute in the fall. At WPI, she plans to pursue a STEM major such as bioengineering or biotechnology. Throughout her high school career, she has consistently maintained an impressive academic record and has given her time to important causes, such as volunteering for relay for life and serving her Town at the Reuben Hoar Library.

**Abby Raymond** - Abby graduates from Littleton High School this year with an impressive array of accomplishments consistent with an outstanding STEM student. We recognize her accomplishments with the FIRST Robotics program, her honors in Biology, the award of a National Merit Commended Scholar and a long list of leadership and academic honors. She also participation in Band and athletics adding experience and depth. She will be attending Tufts University in the fall.

**Meghan Bussiere** - Meghan is a 2017 graduate of Littleton HS with an excellent level of academic achievement. She will be a pre-med major at McGill University in the fall. She has actively pursued relevant experiences to her aspirations for a career in medicine including an internship at Mass General. Meghan expects to become licensed and work as an EMT during her undergraduate studies and then attend medical school.

**Alexandra Autio** - Alexandra is attending UMass –Amherst with a major in Kinesiology and minoring in Psychology. She plans to use her degree to build a career in orthopedics/sports medicine. Alexandra also has a budding interest in emergency medicine following her experiences shadowing physicians in an emergency room. This summer she will internship at Children's Hospital at the Micheli Center for sports injury prevention.

**Amber Cardoos** - Amber has recently completed her second year of studies at the Alpert School of Medicine at Brown University. She continues to build on her academic achievements that started at Littleton HS and at Williams College. Amber is currently leaning towards a future as a primary care physician. As a medical student she has explored and developed interests in expanding her role in the world of health care. Amber is involved in a mentoring program for high school students in interested in health careers, has been active in health care programs for incarcerated adolescents and women, and has assumed a role in mentoring first year medical students.

**Nathan Johnson** - Nathan is a 2017 graduate of Littleton High School, and will be attending the University of Massachusetts- Amherst in the fall. At Umass Amherst, he plans to major in computer systems engineering. A student with an outstanding academic career, he has taken advance placement courses at Littleton High, is a member of his school's engineering club, and has had the opportunity to take a computer science course through Umass Lowell. Outside of high school, he is an accomplished Eagle Scout and three-season athlete, competing in spring and winter track, as well as cross country.

**Jessica Baron** - Jessica is a member of the National Honor Society, active participant in Community Service activities, a hard worker and a caring, considerate good friend to all. She will attend Fitchburg State University as an Accounting major with a minor in Mathematics.

**Lucy Howes** - Lucy has recently graduated from Littleton HS and will be attending UMass Amherst in the fall majoring in nursing. Her career goal is to be a neonatal nurse.

**Allison Krystofik** - Allison graduated from Littleton High School in 2016 and is a rising sophomore at Simmons College. Her goal is to become a physical therapist and work with children. In fact, she has already been working steadily with children as a babysitter, teacher's aide, a camp counselor and a dance teacher assistant.

**Stephanie Gentile** – Stephanie has just finished her third year of an accelerated, five and half year masters program at the University of New Hampshire in Occupational Therapy. Her goal consistently has been to work with people and help others. Stephanie has maintained her high GPA while also taking on a position as an officer in the student OT association.

**Kendra LaValle** – Kendra is a 2013 graduate of Littleton High School, and is now a senior entering her last semester at the University of Pittsburgh in the fall. At the university, she studies chemical engineering and is minoring in chemistry, while also pursuing a certificate in supply management. While following a rigorous course load at Pitt, she has had the opportunity to serve on a co-op at Johnson and Johnson, to work in research laboratories, and has volunteered a great deal of her time serving the Pittsburgh community, as well as those abroad in Ecuador.

The recipients of these awards illustrate the intent of Vince Couper and John & Eunice Morrison to help those who were interested in advancing their careers. To date, the F.M. Kimball-Second Fund has awarded over \$181,000 in scholarships to the residents of Littleton since its inception in 1996. The Morrison Fund has awarded \$130,000 over the past four years.

These scholarships are open annually to residents of Littleton who are pursuing higher education or additional skills training in order to advance their career objectives. Further information, as well as an application, is available at the Town's web site [www.littletonma.org](http://www.littletonma.org).