

SAFEBuilt Scholarship City Congratulates 2020 Youth Achievement Award Winners

The Youth Achievement Awards are intended to honor and recognize those youth that live in the City, who have made a significant impact on the Troy community through volunteer work or other special deeds and actions, and who demonstrate exceptional leadership and career/academic purpose. The City of Troy's SAFEbuilt Inc. contributes the funds for these awards.

"SAFEbuilt is proud to support the local youth and the City by offering this scholarship opportunity," Troy's SAFEBuilt Building Official Dana Self said. "We were very impressed with the winners and congratulate Noah Scudder and Nazia Haque for their commitment to giving back to Troy. Noah and Nazia represent the best of Troy's youth and are role models to their peers."

This year's first place graduating senior awardee is Noah Scudder, a 2020 Athens High School graduate. He graduated with a 3.87 GPA and in his four years at Athens High, successfully completed seven AP classes, and a number of honors classes. In addition to his exceptional academics, Noah was also an active member in extracurricular activities, including National Honor Society; Student Congress (2016-2020), President (2020); Superintendent's Student Advisory Board (2016-2020); Troy Board of Education Student representative (2019-2020); French Club (2018-2020); and Athens Marching Band (2016-2020). Noah is very proud of working together with the Athens Student Congress to raise record setting funds each year during Charity Week for very worthy organizations and being instrumental in leading the student body to raise a new school record of \$180,024.40 for Elli's House during his term as President.

Noah received the John Philips Sousa Award as a member of the Athens Bands in 2020, was a Social Studies Scholar (2020), and won an Athens Activities Award and a Youth Excellence Award from Troy Youth Assistance in 2020. He served as an intern for the Haley Stevens for Congress Team in 2018 and is working as a Fellow for State Representative Padma Kuppa since June 2020. Teachers and Student Advisors praise Noah for excelling academically, as well as his leadership skills, outstanding service record, and positive outlook on life. In the fall, Noah plans to attend Michigan State University's James Madison College to study Public Policy.

This year's second place graduating senior awardee is Nazia Haque, a 2020 International Academy East graduate. She graduated with a 4.2655 GPA and in her four years at IA East, successfully completed 11 honors classes and completed the International Baccalaureate program. In addition to her exceptional academics, Nazia was also an active member in extracurricular activities, including Strings Orchestra, Full Orchestra, Symphonic Orchestra, Athens High Track Team, 2020 Powderpuff Football Team, Health Occupation Students of America, and Vice President of the Club for Animal Respect and Education (CARE).

Nazia and her friends created CARE to educate their school community about the benefits animals have on our wellbeing. They accomplished this by bringing in therapy animals to

school classes and events teaching others how the animals are able to alleviate stress that comes from being in an academically driven school community. Nazia shared her goal of pursuing a degree in the medical field of Endocrinology because of living with a genetic condition called Mosaic Turner Syndrome. She wants to directly impact the lives of children who live with rare genetic conditions like she does so they don't feel alone in their journey. They will have a physician who has a similar condition, someone they can look up to. Nazia was praised by teachers for her strength of character, enthusiasm for learning, courage and compassion for others.

In the fall, Nazia plans to study Human Biology on the pre-med track through the Lyman Briggs College at Michigan State University.

"Both Noah and Nazia are to be commended for their accomplishments, leadership, and dedication to bettering Troy," Mayor Ethan Baker said. "The City of Troy is very fortunate to have young people like Noah and Nazia who regularly give back to our community, making it an exceptional place to live. We wish them success this fall as they continue their studies at Michigan State University."