

## **City Congratulates 2021 Youth Achievement Award Winners of the annual SAFEbuilt Scholarship**

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 Julia Levy and Arjun Tholakapalli for their commitment to giving back to Troy. Julia and Arjun represent the best of Troy's youth and are role models to their peers."

This year's first place graduating senior awardee is Julia Levy, a 2021 International Academy graduate. A class of 2021 IAE commencement speaker, Julia graduated Summa Cum Laude with a 4.41 GPA and in her four years at International Academy successfully completed 21 honors classes and 10 Diploma Programme (DP) Courses.

In addition to her exceptional academics, Julia was also an active member in extracurricular activities, including an Officer of National Honor Society (2020-2021); Founder and President of the International Academy East Book Club (2020-2021); IAE Drama Club Volunteer and Student Sponsor (2017-2021); Math Honor Society Member (2019-2021); Tri-M Music Honor Society (2019-2021); Spanish Honor Society Member (2020-2021); and Athens High School Tennis (2018-2021).

Julia was one of the organizers for the IAE Interact Club of the GROW Program for Special Needs Students, August 2017 through June 2019; Robot Science Camp volunteer in 2018; and Ambassador for Girl Scouts of Southeast Michigan since 2007. She is extremely proud of the many projects she has helped organize through Girl Scouts and IA East that have enabled her to serve her community and beyond. Teachers and Counselors praise Julia for excelling academically, as well as her compassion (honored as the IA Kindness Hero Award), excitement, passion and love for the STEM field. In the fall, Julia plans to attend Yale University and pursue a career in astrophysics.

This year's second place graduating senior awardee is Arjun Tholakapalli, a 2021 Troy High School graduate. He graduated with a 3.68 GPA and in his four years at Troy High, successfully completed seven AP classes and two honors classes. In addition to his exceptional academics, Arjun was also an active member in extracurricular activities, including Project LEAD (2017-2021); National Honor Society (2019-2021); and Student Congress (2017-2019). Arjun also served his community by serving on the Troy Public Library Teen Advisory Board (2017-2021) and the Global Troy Advisory Committee (2019-2021). He was an Honor Awardee for the United Nations Global Goals Impact National Community Service Award and received an outstanding citizen award by the Oakland County Sheriff.

Arjun served as the Chair of Elementary School Tutoring with Project LEAD and organized multiple tutoring sessions for students in the Troy School District. He is very proud of his involvement in their academic performance seeing continual improvement in their math, reading, writing, and homework assignments. Arjun was praised by teachers and counselors for his outgoing personality, passionate work ethic, and endless positivity. He sets goals for himself and outlines a path to achieve them. In the fall, Arjun plans to study Supply Chain Management at Michigan State University.

“Both Julia and Arjun 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 Julia and Arjun 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 Yale University and Michigan State University.”