



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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BCANJ Awards Three Scholarships Totaling \$30,000

Edison, NJ – Three New Jersey students received college scholarships totaling \$30,000 from Building Contractors Association of New Jersey (BCANJ). Awarded through BCANJ’s Tenth Annual Presidents’ Scholarship Program, the scholarships were presented to the students at the awards ceremony and reception on June 17, 2008, at Mayfair Farms in West Orange.

The 2008 scholarship recipients were selected from more than 20 qualified applicants. Each recipient will receive \$2,500 for each of the years they attend an accredited college or university and maintain a minimum of 12 credits per semester toward their undergraduate degree, up to a maximum of four years. Established to assist employees of BCANJ active member firms with their dependents’ higher education needs, the program has committed \$239,000 in scholarships to 35 deserving, well-rounded individuals since its inception in 1999.

“The Presidents’ Scholarship Fund is an excellent opportunity for us to recognize the hard work and accomplishments of these fine students,” said BCANJ Executive Director Darlene Regina. “Once again we had an exceptional group of applicants, giving us the difficult task of selecting the three very best.”

Scholarship Recipients for 2008:

When **Melissa Bauer of West Orange** lost a 16-year-old friend to cancer last summer, she had already been participating in Relay for Life, a fundraising event for the American Cancer Society. Now she is a team captain, and has organized eight team members to contribute to the cause. Her dedication is reflected in all her activities and academics throughout high school. The West Orange High School Marching Band certainly benefited from Melissa’s passion. Every fall for four years, she could be found three or four days a week in intense practice with the award-winning group. Through the years, she gave her time to the Geometry, Algebra II and Chemistry teams. Her senior year she was editor of the school newspaper, and served on the Executive Board of Junior States of America. She maintained a 4.5 GPA, carrying a full load of Advanced Placement classes and achieving 1770 out of 2400 on her SATs. Since 2006, Melissa has worked at CVS as a cashier – and translates her work experience into volunteer labor in the gift shop of the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation. She plans to major in Civil Engineering at NJIT.

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Fanwood's Patrick Doliber is a classic Renaissance student, with wide-ranging interests and talents. Patrick wrote his first novel as a child, and began his second during his sophomore year at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. He excels in math and science, earned the rank of Eagle Scout, and was voted Most Valuable Player of his cross-country team. He balances a love of literature with his love of the outdoors, engaging in discussions about the craft of writing as easily as he hikes the Appalachian Trail. Patrick ranked eighth in a class of 361, choosing a challenging schedule of Advanced Placement classes and emerging as a member of the National Honor Society with a GPA of 4.38. His composite SAT score was 2120 out of 2400. Not only did Patrick participate in the school's Math and Science Leagues, he achieved the "highest-scoring" position more than once. For his Eagle Scout project, Patrick designed and built an "outdoor classroom." Now, as Assistant Junior Scoutmaster, he helps other scouts fulfill their Eagle Scout projects. Patrick plans to pursue Engineering and Computer Science at Cornell University.

Christina Pindar of Mountainside is always on the move. When she's not sprinting down the soccer field, she's dancing in a hospital hallway with a young girl named Katie, who spends her young life in a wheelchair. Christina met Katie through her volunteer work at Children's Specialized Hospital, where she spends two or three hours every Sunday morning working with the kids. "Katie is in first grade and I am a senior in high school," writes Christina. "She cannot walk and I am a soccer player...She can only say a handful of words and I never stop talking...but both of us teem with infectious energy and joy." Christina gives generously of her time to other community activities, teaching Spanish vocabulary and culture to underprivileged kids in Paterson, giving swimming lessons to children at the YMCA, and participating in Operation Smile, Students Against Destructive Decisions and Students In Touch - Uplifting People! Christina graduated from Villa Walsh Academy in Morristown with a 4.5 GPA, a composite 2240 out of 2400 on her SATs, and letters in soccer, softball and swimming. She was recognized as an Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholar, and received a National Merit Scholarship commendation and the University of Pennsylvania Book Award. Christina enters Bowdoin College in Maine this fall.

Established in 1937, the Edison-based Building Contractors Association of New Jersey (BCANJ) is made up of some 225 active and associate members who are engaged in commercial, institutional and industrial construction. BCANJ works to unify the construction industry in terms of labor relations, improved business methods and standards, high safety standards, and overall project efficiency and productivity. Through an exchange of services and information, BCANJ members are made aware of issues that directly impact the construction industry in New Jersey.

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Photo Caption:

Standing left to right, Christina Pindar of Mountainside, Patrick Doliber of Fanwood and Melissa Bauer of West Orange received scholarships totaling \$30,000 toward their undergraduate degrees from the Building Contractors Association of New Jersey Presidents' Scholarship Program. The awards were presented on June 17, 2008, at the BCANJ Membership Meeting at Mayfair Farms, West Orange. This fall, Christina will enter Bowdoin College, Melissa will enter New Jersey Institute of Technology and Patrick will attend Cornell University.

