

Samantha Baltieri, Smithtown
ALIVE Award for Student Achievement
(Association of Long Island Vocational Educators)

Samantha has triumphed over academic challenges by her willingness to learn. Whether she's busy in her academic classes at Manor Plains High School or her Tech class, she applies herself and works to the best of her ability – and always maintains a positive attitude. She is a genuinely kind person who is always sensitive to the feelings of others and embodies a dedicated work ethic and a resiliency to learn and grow. A dedicated student in Tech's Photography program, Samantha's photographs show her ability to capture the essence of her subjects. Samantha's perseverance allowed her vocational teachers to recognize her with the prestigious ALIVE scholarship award. Samantha's ability to submerge herself into her photography and translate what she sees into a beautiful photograph is the essence of who Samantha is. She is the embodiment of success!

Joseph Romeo, Copiague
Presidential Award for Educational Achievement

Joseph has shown significant growth both academically and socially during this school year. He has emerged as a role model whose friendship is sought by many of his classmates. Joseph has excelled in all his academic subjects and has gained the foundation necessary to be successful in high school and college. He has impressed many of the adults at Brennan with his maturity and insight. When speaking with Joseph, it is quickly evident that he has become an effective problem-solver. He has become a confident and very capable young man who has demonstrated his leadership qualities on both the student council and the Pro Star club. As he prepares to transition to the Alternate Learning Center in West Babylon High School, we are certain his future there will be very bright!

Dennis Doherty, Kings Park
1st Place NYS SkillsUSA, First Aid and CPR Competition

Dennis, a student in Professional Health Careers at Wilson Tech's Dix Hills campus, won first place in the First Aid and CPR contest at the NYS SkillsUSA competition in Syracuse in April. Dennis is the historian for SkillsUSA and has been an avid member in organizing and facilitating fundraising activities on campus. Dennis has maintained his excellent average and attendance each quarter. He also generously volunteers his time after school with the Kings Park Fire and Ambulance Corps. Dennis aspires to further his medical education at Stony Brook University in their EMT Program. We are proud to have him represent our state at the SkillsUSA National Competition in Kansas City in June.

**Rashaad Campbell, Harborfields
Outstanding Achievement Award**

Rashaad comes from a close-knit family and has the support of his mother, grandmother, and younger sister. Upon enrolling at the JEA Alternative School in 2007, Rashaad made steady progress both academically and behaviorally. In fact, he made such improvements in his grades, attendance and especially his attitude towards school that he earned his way back to Walt Whitman High School. Rashaad returned to the Alternative School in January 2010. Since then he doubled up on his classes, maintained an 85 and above average and passed the NYS exams required to earn a Regents Diploma! Rashaad completed all the State and district requirements for graduation by January 2011! Rashaad was a role model for the other students because his heart is just as big as his stature. He was always willing to lend a helping hand for a fellow student or staff member. Rashaad plans on attending a local community college while working full time. The staff will miss Rashaad's outgoing personality and enthusiasm.

**Simone Alloway, West Babylon
SACCE Outstanding Student Award
Suffolk Association for Continuing Community Education**

Simone's growth, both personal and academic, has been evident as she progressed through various programs at Wilson Tech starting with CEEC, our program for out-of-school youth. As a recently relocated single mother from Queens, she knew that getting a high school diploma was an absolute necessity. She raised her reading and math scores significantly and was accepted into the External Diploma Program where she completed her high school diploma in June 2005. Her mother's cancer diagnosis motivated Simone to make a commitment to continue her education and make a better life for her two sons. Simone was adamant that her children would not allow their community to define their limitations, and she knew that providing her children with a positive role model and a well-educated mother would encourage them to pursue their own dreams. With the help of VESID and Western Suffolk BOCES, Simone returned to school to follow her dream of earning a license in Cosmetology. She enrolled in the Adult Cosmetology Program in September 2010 and should complete her 1,000 hours for licensing this month. Her excellence in the classroom led to her induction into the National Technical Honor Society. Teachers and classmates respect Simone as a class leader. She has, in fact, become that well-educated, positive role model for her children, family, friends and community.

Jonathan Bleecker, Harborfields
SEPTA Council Executive Director Award

Jonathan has been a part of the ALC family for more than eight years. As an 8th grader at Elwood Middle School, he participates not only in his self-contained academics but also in mainstream classes and in the class' community-based program. Throughout the years, Jonathan has shown continual growth and determination in all his endeavors, both academically and personally. One word which would describe Jonathan is "Happy!" He always has a smile and something nice to say! Jonathan is a positive force within the class. He is eager to learn and to participate in all class activities. Jonathan demonstrates responsibility and citizenship by volunteering at the American Lung Association. Jonathan has also participated in many extracurricular activities including Spanish, swimming, and guitar and piano lessons. In addition, he was a member of a bowling team and the Civil Air Patrol. Jonathan enjoys reading, video games and anything and everything that has to do with trains and planes. Ask Jonathan about what trains go where and he'll definitely give you the information! Jonathan is a true gem! Jonathan's kindness and dedication have left a lasting imprint on his peers and on the ALC Program.

Nezarae Tatum, Wyandanch
SACCE Outstanding Student Award
Suffolk Association for Continuing Community Education

Nezarae is the epitome of perseverance. At the age of 16, she had two children -- the first of many obstacles that she would not let stand in her way. She realized the need for an education. For almost a decade, she worked to improve her skills in three BOCES programs: first, the Center for Alternative Education, then the CEEC program for out-of-school youth and then the Even Start Family Literacy program. After losing her mother at age 18, she was diagnosed with dyslexia. Then she became a single mother upon her husband's incarceration. She had her third child at the age of 20. At this point, most people would have given up; she became more determined than ever. Her next step was to enroll in Wilson Tech's Office Assistant program through adult education. Her determination finally paid off. She went from a low level reader to a proficient one! Her score on our adult basic education test then qualified her for the External Diploma Program. In January 2010, she received her high school diploma from Kings Park H.S. and successfully completed the Office Assistant program. Nezarae is an inspiration to fellow students and a role model to her children. We are confident that Nezarae will continue on a successful career and life path.

Jessica Sefcheck, Smithtown

Western Suffolk BOCES Faculty Association Award

Jessica has demonstrated a willingness to work hard, grow and succeed both within the school environment and the community. Throughout her years in the schools of Western Suffolk BOCES, she has displayed the qualities of perseverance, diligence and patience. No matter what assignment was at hand, Jessica eagerly completed the task to the best of her abilities. She is kind to her classmates and is an integral part of all facets of the Jr/Sr High School where she has participated in Girl Scouts, Cheerleading, Drama Club, Blue Chorus, Art Club and Computer Club. As she prepares for graduation and the next stage of her life, the staff and students wish her the best of everything!

Leanne Zezeski, Babylon

David Kidane Memorial Scholarship

Leanne has been nominated to receive the David Kidane Memorial Scholarship because she is a bright, kind, young woman who has excelled at Brennan High School. During her time in our program, she has faced many emotional challenges. Her willingness to seek assistance when needed and her ability to internalize skills she developed in counseling have made the difference for Leanne. She is a warm, compassionate young lady who has taken all of the good of Brennan High School and put it to great use. She has the ability to connect with others and is appreciative of the support and structure that our program can offer to any student who is willing to work hard. She has aspired to work on personal social and emotional goals and Brennan High School is so proud of her tremendous accomplishments. Leanne will graduate this June and will attend Suffolk Community College in the fall.