



## PRESS RELEASE

# Three County Fair Announces 2020 Scholarship Recipients

*Eight local graduating seniors to receive college scholarships to support their career plans in a variety of fields*

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**Northampton, MA** – America’s longest continuous agricultural Fair, the Three County Fair, has selected their 2020 scholarship award recipients.

Applicants are scored on academics, extra-curricular activities, application presentation, future study plans and involvement in agriculture, including the annual Labor Day weekend Fair. The Fair awarded its first scholarship in 1867.

Earlier this year, the Fair extended the application submission date from March to June due to the school shutdown related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We received more applications this year than in previous years and the awards process was extremely competitive as a result” said James Przypek, General Manager of the Three County Fair. “During these uncertain economic times, we are very proud to not just recognize the student’s accomplishments and their career goals but to also help ease any financial burden the students and their families may be experiencing.”

The Fair manages the prestigious Raymond & Josephine Duda Scholarship. The Duda Scholarship was established in 2014 by Raymond & Josephine Duda of Easthampton, who operated one of the area’s largest dairy farms.

This year’s Duda Scholarship winner is Giavanni Thomson of Chicopee. Gia has graduated from Chicopee Comprehensive High School while also taking dual enrollment classes at Holyoke Community College. Ms. Thomson has been accepted at UMASS-Amherst where she plans to major in Agriculture & Natural Resources with the goal of becoming a veterinarian/zoologist. During her summers, Gia has gained valuable experience through multiple enrichment courses with such organizations as, Mount Holyoke College, New England Public Radio, United States Department of Agriculture, United States Naval Academy and University of Massachusetts Equine Science and Forensic Science programs, while volunteering to support the Dakin Animal Shelter and AMVETS. Gia was also a member of the Chicopee Comp Varsity Basketball team and Track and Field.

Seven other area high school students were also selected to receive a scholarship from the Three County Fair, including, Hailey Boisvert of Hadley, Haley Dusseault of South Hadley, Felicia Fil of Hadley, Kate Mas of Belchertown, Tate Mason of Huntington, Kyle Montague of Westhampton, and Leah Thivierge of Westfield.

Full list of 2020 scholarship recipients:

Student: Giavanni Thomson of Chicopee  
High School: Chicopee Comprehensive High School  
College Options: University of Massachusetts-Amherst  
Major/Career Aspiration: Veterinarian/Zoologist  
Award: \$1,000. - Raymond & Josephine Duda Scholarship

Student: Hailey Boisvert of Hadley  
High School: Hopkins Academy  
College Options: UMASS-Amherst, STCC or Keene State  
Major/Career Aspiration: Health/Medical  
Award: \$300. - Three County Fair Scholarship

Student: Haley Dusseault of South Hadley  
High School: South Hadley High School  
College Options: Holyoke Community College  
Major/Career Aspiration: Health Sciences  
Award: \$300. - Three County Fair Scholarship

Student: Felicia Fil of Hadley  
High School: Hopkins Academy  
College Options: Regis College, Saint Anselm or Saint Michael's College  
Major/Career Aspiration: Psychology  
Award: \$300. - Three County Fair Scholarship

Student: Kate Mas of Belchertown  
High School: TEC Connections Academy  
College Options: Skidmore College  
Major/Career Aspiration: Environmental Science  
Award: \$300. - Three County Fair Scholarship

Student: Tate Mason of Huntington  
High School: Agawam High School  
College Options: Meredith Manor International Equine Centre  
Major/Career Aspiration: Equine Science  
Award: \$300. - Three County Fair Scholarship

Student: Kyle Montague of Westhampton  
High School: Hampshire Regional High School  
College Options: UMASS-Dartmouth  
Major/Career Aspiration: Mechanical Engineering  
Award: \$300. - Three County Fair Scholarship

Student: Leah Thivierge of Westfield  
High School: Westfield High School  
College Options: Washington College, George Mason University or University of Kentucky  
Major/Career Aspiration: Agricultural Science  
Award: \$300. - Three County Fair Scholarship

**About the Hampshire, Franklin & Hampden County Agricultural Society:**

Located in Northampton, Massachusetts and incorporated in 1818, the Hampshire, Franklin & Hampden County Agricultural Society promotes agriculture, agricultural education, agricultural science and sustainability for the region through exhibitions, displays, competitions and demonstrations and operates The Three County Fair, “America’s Oldest Fair” annually over Labor Day weekend.

**For more information:**

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