

Student and Staff Achievements

September 2019

Fund for Teachers

In April, Dalio Foundation awarded Fund for Teachers (FFT) professional learning grants to educators across Connecticut, including four from Stamford. According to the organization, the foundation provided some \$875,000 in grants this year. As FFT Fellows, grant recipients participated in self-designed professional learning experiences over the summer. Stamford's FFT Fellows traveled across Vietnam and the United Kingdom. Stamford's 2019 FFT Fellows are:

- **Miranda DePoi, Anchor**
- **Daria Van Nostrand, Stamford High School**
- **Linda Marchisio, Stamford High School**
- **Melissa Hadsell, Stamford High School**

Ronald Reagan Great Communicator Debate Series

Stamford High School (SHS) Senior **Aron Ravin** took first place and a \$10,000 scholarship in the Ronald Reagan Great Communicator Debate Series this summer. Aron is a senior captain of the SHS Debate Team and qualified for the prestigious competition by winning the online Regional Championship in May. He, along with 11 other regional qualifiers, received an all-expenses paid trip to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Southern California, including a private tour of the library, dinner under the wings of Air Force One and a chance to meet an extraordinary group of young leaders. Aron won the final round 4-1 to take home the National Championship and scholarship.

2020 National Merit Scholarship Program

Stamford High School Senior **Andrew Patashnik** was recently named a National Merit Scholarship® Semifinalist in the 65th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. According to the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), Andrew is among the highest scorers in the state and the top 16,000 students nationwide who earned the honor of semifinalist. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists represent less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors.

MIT Summer Engineering Program competition

Academy of Information Technology & Engineering (AITE) Senior **Manik Jain** led the winning Artificial Intelligence and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) team at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) summer engineering program. The competition was part of a four-week program at the 2019 MIT Lincoln Library Beaver Works Summer Institute (BWSI), hosted by the MIT Lincoln Laboratory Beaver Works Center. Manik was among a select group of 240 students from high schools around the nation selected to participate. In the final UAV drone racing competition, Manik's team ranked first by navigating the obstacle course in a record time of 1:32 minutes.

CFES Brilliant Pathways School of Distinction for the 11th Consecutive Year

College for Every Student (CFES) Brilliant Pathways named **Cloonan Middle School** as a *School of Distinction* for the 11th consecutive year. Cloonan is one of a select group of 28 schools, from across the U.S. and Ireland, to be recognized for exemplary efforts in helping students become college and career ready. Cloonan is the only school in the State of Connecticut to earn this honor. According to CFES, the competitive award acknowledges the development and execution of a highly effective plan for the entire student body to become college and career ready through the CFES core practices of Essential Skills, Mentoring and Pathways to College and Career.