

# NEW HAVEN chapter spotlight 2017



Martin's West | Baltimore, MD  
April 30, 2017



2017 New Scholars: **3**

2017 Recognized Scholars: **2**

Cumulative New England Scholars: **79 (62 Connecticut)**

**Highlights:** Beginning with the introduction of the 2017 Carson Scholars by FOX45's Jennifer Gilbert, the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Maryland Awards Ceremony featured musical performances by 2017 Carson Scholar Lena Goldstein and 8-time Carson Scholar Michelle Bao. Steve Harvey was presented with the Generous Heart Award and kept the crowd laughing while imparting important lessons to the scholars. Members of the 2017 Hall of Fame class were honored and guests were surprised with a balloon drop and confetti cannons to close out the event.

**\$54,155.82\*** have been paid out to colleges on behalf of the scholars who won their awards in the Connecticut/New England area.

*\*\*As of fiscal year 2017*



Commitment in New England



**Lesly Gonzalez-Benitez**

2017 Carson Scholar

Christopher Columbus Family Academy

New Haven, CT

Lesly is a highly motivated student who is always determined to learn and grow. She hopes to combine her passions for art and math to one day become an architect. She enjoys expressing herself through art and often relates her artistic philosophy to her life, realizing that it is important to pay attention to detail but also that making mistakes only allows you to learn and become better. She also uses poetry to express herself through writing. At school, Lesly is actively involved in Math Counts, a club where she learns advanced math skills and competes against other schools. She also volunteers with Pennies for Patients by collecting and donating pennies to raise money for cancer patients.

Austin is competitive in the classroom and on the field. He is consistently on the superior honor roll and has been awarded with academic excellence each year of high school. After showing his skills on the varsity soccer and lacrosse teams, Austin volunteers with box lacrosse to teach the basics of the game to young athletes. His favorite club at school is the engineering club, and he plans to put what he learns through the club to use by starting his own woodworking business. Whether he is doing yardwork or cutting down trees, Austin is always willing to help his neighbors.



**Austin Blumbergs**

2017 Carson Scholar

Penn Yan Academy

Penn Yan, NY



**Gabriella Ribeiro**

3-time Carson Scholar

Saint Joseph Preparatory High School

Boston, MA

Gabriella is an artistic soul with a knack for serving others. Whether it is through a capella group, theater club or her softball team, she enjoys learning from those around her and building a strong sense of camaraderie among teammates. Each of these groups allow her to express herself in and out of the classroom. Gabriella's favorite hobbies include song writing, singing, drawing and painting, so it comes as no surprise that she plans to become an elementary or middle school teacher in either art or music. Gabriella is an active member of her church where she helps the choir director lead practices and is an altar server during Sunday services. She also took part in Christmas in the City, where she led children living in local shelters through a winter wonderland.

**“We are extremely grateful that such a program exists to give academic scholars the credit and recognition they so greatly deserve.”**

Tom and Jessica Rhodes, parents of 2017 Carson Scholar Brady Rhodes