

PITTSBURGH chapter spotlight 2020



Virtual Banquet
May 9, 2020

2020 New Scholars: 69

2020 Recognized Scholars: 159

Scholars from the Western Pennsylvania-Ohio area: 1,442

Highlights:

On May 9, 2020, we celebrated our Carson Scholars with a Virtual Banquet. This year's superhero theme, which had been planned for the banquets, took on new meaning in light of the pandemic as we celebrated the intellectual skills and caring nature of our scholars. The banquet started with a beautiful welcome from Dr. and Mrs. Carson, congratulating the scholars on their resiliency, strong work ethic, and dedication to their communities. Kevin Olusola, Grammy award winning cellist, singer/songwriter and beatboxer of the vocal band, Pentatonix, received the Power of Excellence award. Dr. William Bennett, former Secretary of Education and national director of drug control policy, and Mrs. Elayne Bennett, founder and president of the Best Friends Foundation, were honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award. To conclude, all scholars' names and photos were displayed. Since we couldn't celebrate in person, scholars were encouraged to send in photos with their medals and certificates. Many families also posted photos on social media of how they turned the virtual banquet into a special celebration at home.



“Ever since I received this title of being a Carson Scholar, I have worked extra hard in school and my community to not only better my life but to help those around me in any way I can. This program reminds me, my efforts inside and outside of the classroom do not go unnoticed and I should be proud of all that I accomplish.”

Madison Morrone, 4-time Carson Scholar, Oakland Catholic High School



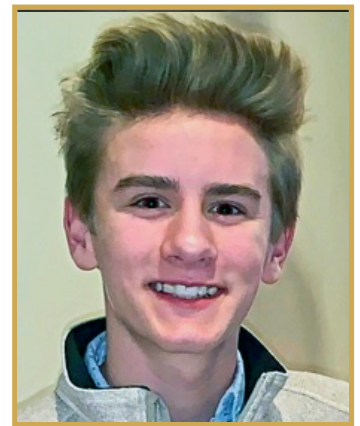
Melina shines both academically and socially. In school, she has high marks in AP Biology and accelerated English. Outside the classroom, Melina uses her outstanding soccer skills to coach a team of second and third grade girls. She holds several other leadership positions, including Vice President of the Future Business Leaders of America club and Senator for her school’s student government. During her down time you can find Melina journaling.

Melina Bradley

2020 Carson Scholar

Fox Chapel Area Senior High School
Pittsburgh, PA

As the President of the Student Council, competitive swimmer, and a dedicated member of his church, Henry is always on the move. As a part of his Student Council duties, his school raised enough money to buy and donate over 40 turkeys to the community. Henry is a well-rounded student, excelling in all his classes. He has spent several years volunteering for the American Red Cross and dreams of being an engineer.



Henry Koloc

2020 Carson Scholar

Christ the Divine Teacher Catholic Academy
Pittsburgh, PA



Benjamin is a talented musician with a passion for serving those around him. As an experienced trumpet player, he is a member of the Beaver Falls Tiger Marching, Concert, and Jazz bands, as well as the orchestra for the school musical. Through his church, Benjamin served as a leader of the Love Your Neighbor project, leading a group of kids as they helped families in the parish with chores such as painting houses, clearing weeds, and building porches. He also volunteers through church by packaging food for families during Easter and Thanksgiving. Benjamin plans to pursue a career in music therapy.

Benjamin Laderer

6-time Carson Scholar

Beaver Falls High School
Beaver Falls, PA