

The City of Naperville and the Accessible Community Task Force would like to congratulate the 2020 Student Recognition Award Winners

The following students are being honored for their exemplary service and outstanding commitment to affirm individuals with disabilities in their school and in the community:

Lily Goodfellow, Naperville Central High School

Lily is an exceptional student whose thoughtfulness, honesty and hard work has resulted in her being an advocate for individuals with Down Syndrome as well as all individuals with disabilities. She shares openly about her challenges as an individual with a disability and how she chooses to face those challenges with determination, positivity and most of all grace. Lily is not defined by her challenges but rather is defined by her achievements. This year, Lily has her own inclusion segment on Naperville Central's "Hawk TV" show which airs monthly and educates others on how to interact with students with disabilities. This has resulted in multiple students signing up for opportunities to work with students with disabilities. Through her efforts, Lily breaks the barrier between students and their peers with disabilities. She is an exceptional asset to Naperville Central High School.

Madelynn Hastings, Waubonsie Valley High School

Madelynn is passionate about working with all students, regardless of their abilities. She gives so much to everyone, and exemplifies acceptance and tolerance in everything that she does. She has donated a copious amount of time volunteering as part of the board for the Best Buddies Club at Waubonsie Valley High School for the last two years, and is serving as president for the 2019-2020 school year. Madelynn holds Best buddies Club members to high standards and has been creative with ideas on how to expand the club's membership and spread the message of inclusion. Madelyn is the perfect example of what it means to serve and give to others.

Ali Hotchkiss and Lilly Feehan, Neuqua Valley High School

Dynamic Duo is the best way to describe Ali and Lilly. Their personalities instantly brighten any room, especially when they advocate for people with differing abilities. They both hold executive board positions for Best Buddies at Neuqua Valley High School (Lilly-President, Ali-Vice President) and are heavily involved in Special Olympics, supporting the team as student captains and Unified Partners. Another way that Ali and Lilly share their passion is through Adapted Physical Education. In addition, they both give of their time and talents to help plan and execute events such as Pack the Place for Special Olympics Basketball, Spread the Word to End the Word, and Respect Week. Their support, enthusiasm and involvement in these activities is what every high school teacher and coach dreams of!

Nicole Kwilosz, Naperville North High School

As an Adapted PE leader, Nicole is an extraordinary student-athlete who is kind, humble, motivating, hardworking, creative and portrays strong interpersonal skills. She has created strong and genuine relationships with students with disabilities, going out of her way to make certain that students with disabilities feel included, welcomed and safe in their school environment and extracurricular settings. Nicole volunteers her personal time to attend school sporting events and other extracurricular activities with students with disabilities. She is an active volunteer with the district's Special Olympics and in Naperville North's Council for Exceptional Children Club. As a strong advocate for inclusion everywhere, Nicole is an exceptional addition to Naperville North's positive environment for all.

Joey Morton, District 203 Transition Program

Since the first day of attending Connections Transitional Services, Joey has been one of the most engaging, positive and uplifting student leaders. His biggest talent is his big heart. He is always willing to help those in need and is supportive of his peers and staff members. He is especially supportive of students who are more significantly impacted by their disability, supporting that student so that they learn how to perfect a skill or communicate, showing the patience and support of a person far beyond his years. Joey celebrates the small and large successes of others genuinely and with a huge smile on his face. Joey currently takes college courses at College of DuPage and has two part-time paid jobs. He understands how his work and his actions can make a positive influence in his community by showing others that they should follow their dreams and never give up.