Four seniors have each been awarded $1,000 scholarships by the Alumni Association of Quakertown Community High School. Matt Johnson, Jordan Meyers, Samantha Norton and Nikki Vanelli are the scholarship winners. The announcement came during the organization’s annual meeting on June 2.

“These are students who are truly giving back to the community,” said Melea Rupert, president of the association. “They really impressed us during their interviews.” Rupert, who worked in the Quakertown Community School District for 40 years, said those who applied for the award were all good students. However, “Something in the interview said to me, ‘I want to help this kid.’ It’s more of a gut thing. I don’t know if $1,000 will make a difference in their lives, but maybe it gives a little extra boost to a graduating senior. I wish we had 23,000 of these to give out. But these are the four that stood out just a little bit above the others.”

The association has been giving out scholarships since 2010. Before this year, it awarded two scholarships. This year it doubled the number to four. Each year, one of the students is a graduate of the Upper Bucks County Technical School.

Jordan is this year’s representative from the UBCTS. She plans to pursue a career in health care. Jordan’s love of health care has led her to seek a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She plans on starting with her Associates Degree in Nursing at Bucks County Community College. She then plans on transferring to Moravian for her RN and then her BSN.

“She impressed us right away,” Rupert said. “She has a very engaging personality, and is very mature.” Jordan works at Dock Woods senior care residential facility in Lansdale as a certified nurse assistant. She is a member of the National Technical Honor Society, and has made the first honors list every marking period.

“She’s a great role model for other students,” Rupert said.

In addition to the student awards, the Alumni Association awarded an honorary diploma to Ray Ely, the principal at Milford Junior High School when it opened in 1974. Harry Quinque, a former teacher and assistant principal to Ely, and Ray Fox, vice president of the association and a Milford teacher when the school opened, spoke on behalf of Ely.

“It was a wonderful meeting,” Rupert said.

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