



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THREE STUDENTS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HOSPITALITY, TOURISM & RECREATION EDUCATION

(GRAND RAPIDS, Mich) – The Kent County Hospitality Association (KCHA) has announced the recipients of its 2016-2017 Hospitality Education Scholarships. A total of seven applications were received from students representing three different educational institutions. Three students were awarded scholarships for the upcoming academic year at the KCLA August 18 meeting held at the new Homewood Suites in Downtown Grand Rapids.

This year's recipients include:

- **Sarah Balaj** – Grand Valley State University
Major: Communication Studies | Minor: Hospitality Tourism Management
Scholarship Amount: \$1000
- **Wayne Bersano** – Ferris State University
Major: Hotel Management | Minor: Restaurant Management
Scholarship Amount: \$1000
- **Maggie Edwards** – Central Michigan University
Major: Recreation & Event Management | Minor: Hospitality
Scholarship Amount: \$1000

To be considered for one of the scholarships, the student had to be enrolled in the hospitality, travel/tourism and/or food service program at their respective college, university or institution; must be in at least this/her second year of the program; must have an accumulative GPS of 3.00 or higher; must have a minimum of 500 hours of practical on-the-job experience (including paid or unpaid internships) in his/her field of study; and must be endorsed by the department.

KCHA's mission is to provide Kent County hospitality related businesses an opportunity to meet professionally with a common interest to better serve our industry and community, while furthering the overall tourism landscape of our region.

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