



EHS Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

by Noreen Dechon, *Secretary, Ellenville High School*

Ellenville High School Principal Jack L. Eckdahl is pleased to announce Celia Barry and Mariya Gusman, students at the *Ellenville High School*, are semifinalists in the 2005 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Celia (*above photo, left*) and Mariya (*photo, right*) are among 16,000 scholastically-talented high school seniors who had an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,200 Merit Scholarships awards worth \$33.9 million. About 90% of the Semifinalists are expected to become Finalists, and approximately half of the Finalists will be selected as Merit Scholarship winners.

Also, William Mirrer (*photo, center*) has been named a Commended Student in the 2005 National Merit Scholarship. About 34,000 Commended students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Commended students placed among the top five percent of more than one million students who entered the 2005 competition.

Congratulations to our students! Your achievements are no small accomplishment. You have definitely earned this prestigious honor and we at the *Ellenville Central School District* are very proud of you. Good luck!!!

NY Kiwanis District Scholarship Award

by Rosemary Melendez
President, Shawangunk Valley Kiwanis

On September 1st, the *Shawangunk Valley Kiwanis* met at the *Ellenville Activity Center* to honor Frankie Brown, recipient of the \$1000 New York Kiwanis District Scholarship Award.

Frankie Brown was our first *Key Club* president; under his leadership, they donated hats for cancer patients, and food, clothes, and coats for the needy. They had activities for the holidays for senior citizens, and more.

Here is a copy of Frankie's award-winning essay:

I feel like a mineral in a precious stone that has just been added to a treasure chest alongside many other gems. The treasure chest represents the entire Kiwanis Organization; the gems represent all the clubs in Key Club International and the minerals represent members of different Key Clubs. Following the recent charter of the *Ellenville High School Key Club*, it gives me hope that our newly-installed club will be a valuable asset to my village's future.



While our Key Club will last forever, I'm aware my high school career will not. I plan to attend a program of higher education because I know the pursuit of knowledge is endless. I also know that it is difficult to succeed with just a high school diploma in today's world. But most of all, I know that I would like to become more knowledgeable, wise, well-rounded and socially-interactive with many people.

For myself, a meaningful career consists of helping others, learning from experiences, and achieving goals. I would like to make enough money to be satisfied, not indulged where it becomes the sole purpose of my life. I feel the best example of being meaningful to your community is showing them a fine example and a helping hand, not a check. A fine example inspires many, yet money, though it is helpful, comes and goes away with no real meaning.

I feel good about this scholarship; it is not hard to write an essay about the things I truly believe in. I thank the entire Kiwanis Organization for generously providing this scholarship to help students who have such deep dreams and to help parents who have shallow pockets. Your provision gives me renewed hope that our dreams are possible and it encourages me to do the same when I can assume the advanced post of responsibility.

Charles DeFalco
Owner/CEO



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