
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

Waukegan Park District Awards Academic Scholarships

Waukegan, Illinois (June 15, 2022) – The Waukegan Park District awarded five local students who demonstrated exceptional academic achievements and community service with a \$1,000 scholarship, known as the Waukegan Park District Memorial Endowment Fund Scholarship. The 2022 scholarship recipients are: Jacqueline Cruz, Juan Guerrero, Julien Lopez, Denise Perez, and Serafin Valencia.

Scholarship recipients went through a thorough application process and are required to be a resident of the Waukegan Park District, a student enrolled at a college, university, or trade school, and pursuing a field related to parks and recreation.

The 2022 scholarship recipients will be attending the following colleges and universities:

- Jacqueline Cruz, Lake Forest College
- Juan Guerrero, Cornell College
- Julien Lopez, University of Wisconsin – Parkside
- Denise Perez; Northern Illinois University
- Serafin Valencia; University of Rochester

Janet E. Kilkelly, President of the Waukegan Park District Board of Commissioners, stated, “The Waukegan Park District is committed to supporting the academic endeavors of local students. This year’s scholarship recipients have excelled academically while making a difference in their community. Jacqueline, Juan, Julien, Denise, and Serafin truly make our community proud.”

Jay Lerner, Executive Director of the Waukegan Park District, stated, “I am impressed by the outstanding achievements and accomplishments of our scholarship recipients. The future of our community looks bright these students This honor is well-deserved and we congratulate Jacqueline, Juan, Julien, Denise, and Serafin!”

The Waukegan Park District Memorial Endowment Fund Scholarship is funded by private donations. More information is available at waukeganparks.org/scholarship.

###

About the Waukegan Park District

Established on December 26, 1916, the Waukegan Park District (WPD) has 53 properties and more than 742 acres of land, including the 18-hole Bonnie Brook and 9-hole Greenshire Golf Courses. Properties are managed to the highest environmental and conservation standards. Facilities operated by the WPD include the Field House Sports, Fitness and Aquatics Center, Waukegan's Greg Petry SportsPark, Waukegan Skate Park, BMX Track, SplashZone, Percussion Playground, recreational centers, disc golf course, dog exercise area and agility course, outdoor sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, splash pads, and sports courts including basketball, tennis and pickleball. A full range of programs and services are offered year-round for all ages, from infants to seniors, as well as special need populations. Healthy lifestyles, wellness initiatives, and a connection with the outdoors and nature are integrated throughout programs, services, and special events. Arts and cultural activities are provided by the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, and the Waukegan History Museum. We offer something for everyone!

A member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD), Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) and the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA), the WPD employs 66 full-time and 290 part-time, seasonal, and temporary employees and is recognized by the IPRA as an Exceptional Workplace.

Nationally accredited by the NRPA Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and State accredited through the IAPD Distinguished Agency Accreditation, the WPD has received Government Finance Officer Association (GFOA) awards for Distinguished Budget Presentation and Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting for eleven consecutive years and received the coveted GFOA Triple Crown Award recognizing the WPD's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, Popular Annual Financial Reporting and Distinguished Budget Presentation Award in 2019. The WPD was awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2013 and named a Gold Medal Finalist in 2012, 2013, 2019, 2021 and 2022.

SS/05/05/2022

Contact:

Josue Pasillas, MPA
Communications Supervisor
Waukegan Park District
(847) 360-4789
jpasillas@waukeganparks.org
waukeganparks.org