

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Six Harford County students head to Annapolis

Six high school seniors were recently selected to serve as student pages for the 2014 Maryland General Assembly, including Karly Horn of The John Carroll School, Natalie Hutcheson of C. Milton Wright High School, Kennan Kros of Edgewood High School, Jeffrey Mason of North Harford High School, Rebecca Parrish of Edgewood High School and Kelly Stifler of The John Carroll School.

Pages were hand-selected following an arduous application process that included a written test and an extensive oral interview before a 12-person committee, consisting of peers and educators from around the county, who tested the applicants on their knowledge of politics and other various topics. Based on a published rubric, the five highest scorers have the honor of being a page in Annapolis; the sixth highest score on the rubric is the alternate who will replace anyone who cannot serve due to illness.

“This is a once-in-a-lifetime, behind-the-scenes experience for prospective future law, government and policy students to experience first-hand the inner machinations of state government and politics,” said J. Patrick Whitehurst, coordinator of the student page program in Harford County and Fallston High government teacher.

A Student Page Breakfast was held in December at Aberdeen High School, and the newly-named pages spent the morning getting to know each other and the elected officials they will assist during the session. They were afforded the opportunity to ask questions and exchange contact information. The pages’ parents, as well as school and elected officials, were invited to the breakfast.

The event featured keynote speaker Mr. Alex McArtor, Maryland Youth in Government Legislative intern and assistant advisor intern for Senator Glassman’s 2014 County Executive Election Campaign, a student page himself in 2013. Mr. McArtor took a moment to share his insight about the experience of serving as a page and to congratulate this year’s group.

Delegate Richard Impallaria, chair of the Harford Delegation, also addressed the pages, assuring them, “If you have any questions or concerns, we are there for you. We are looking forward to working with each of you.”

In addition to Del. Impallaria, other elected officials in attendance were Delegates Kathy Szeliga, Mary-Dulany James, Donna Stifler, Glen Glass, Pat McDonough and Susan McComas. Senators Barry Glassman and J. B. Jennings were also on-hand.

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Interim Superintendent of Schools Barbara P. Canavan and Board of Education of Harford County Member Alysson Krchnavy brought greetings from the school system and commended the pages for having been selected for this opportunity.

Ms. Karly Horn, 17, is president of her senior class, treasurer of the Tri-M Music Honor Society and member of the National Honor Society, the Friend to Friend Club, and her school's a cappella group. She is active in chorus and theatre in both her school and the community, including the Children's Playhouse of Maryland and Harford Community College. In addition, she is a dancer at The John Carroll Academy of Performing Arts. Ms. Horn hopes to attend The University of Richmond in the fall.

Ms. Natalie Hutcheson, 17, is senior class president and a member of the Student Government Association, the National Honor Society and the Varsity Tennis and Cross Country teams. She plans to attend the University of Maryland College Park in the fall to obtain a degree in International Business.

Mr. Keenan Kros, 17, is a student in the International Baccalaureate magnet program at Edgewood High School. He is captain of the Academic Team and the Varsity Soccer Team and is a member of the National Honor Society and the Varsity Lacrosse Team. Mr. Kros hopes to attend Purdue University or Miami University in the fall to major in Chemical Engineering.

Mr. Jeffrey Mason, 17, grandson of former Baltimore County Councilman 7th District Donald C. Mason, is captain of the Speech and Debate Team and a member of the National Honor Society and the Mock Trial Club. He hopes to attend St. Mary's College of Maryland or George Mason University in the fall.

Ms. Rebecca Parrish, 17, is a student in the International Baccalaureate magnet program at Edgewood High School and is treasurer of the National Honor Society and a member of the Youth and Government program and the Varsity Soccer Team. In addition, she volunteers for Chesapeake Therapeutic Riding and participated in the People to People Student Ambassador Programs to Canada and Europe and a leadership summit in Washington, D.C. Ms. Parrish hopes to attend Lynchburg or Sweet Briar College.

Ms. Kelly Stifler, 17, is a member of the Ceramics Club and is active in her church's youth group. She will be traveling on a mission trip to Honduras in May 2014. In addition, she collected 510 cans for her school's canned food drive this school year. Ms. Stifler plans to attend College of Charleston or Salisbury University in the fall.

The pages will serve in the 2014 legislative session that began in early January and continues through April. They will spend two, non-consecutive weeks with host families in Annapolis while serving in either the House of Delegates or the Maryland Senate. The pages are paid a stipend to cover their living expenses.

The state wide Student Page In Annapolis Program has been ongoing for nearly 35 years. Every high school in the county is urged to participate in the program, and each school has an equal chance of having its candidate(s) score in the top five to become a page in Annapolis.