



Law Enforcement Education Program

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **FORENSIC SCIENCE STUDENT RECEIVES \$1,000 POLICE SCHOLARSHIP**

**NILES, MI** — Lake Michigan College graduate Sarah Lighthart is among 21 top students who will receive \$1,000 college scholarships to encourage their pursuit of law enforcement/public safety careers by the professional public safety officers of the Law Enforcement Education Program (LEEP).

Lighthart is pursuing a degree in Biochemistry with a concentration in Forensic Science at Cedar Crest College. Her father is a Berrien County Sheriff's Deputy and her grandfather was a Berrien County Undersheriff. "With this scholarship, I will be able to further my chances at gaining employment at a federal law enforcement agency (preferably the FBI) and at passing the Foreign Service Officers Exam to gain employment in a United States embassy overseas (preferably Russia or a country in the Middle East) as a Public Service Officer," wrote Lighthart in her scholarship application. "The LEEP Dream Scholarship will more easily allow me to achieve my ultimate dream of helping my country be safer than ever before."

Lighthart volunteered for the Berrien County Motor Unit Sheriff's Run and Hospice at Home Parade details. The Niles Senior High graduate was dual-enrolled through Early College Academy. She was in marching band, Phi Theta Kappa, Key Club, tennis team, Spanish Club and Rotary Club. She was Historian and Treasurer for Business Professionals of America (BPA) and worked as a 2012 Presidential Election Inspector. As a BPA officer, she "... has qualified for state competition twice and national competition once," wrote Michele Clement, BPA Advisor, in a letter of recommendation. "She has always been a student that I could count on and even though she is extremely busy she makes time to fulfill her duties."

"She is enthusiastic and determined and always has a positive attitude," wrote Leona Hein, Key Club Advisor at Niles High School, in a letter of recommendation. "She has always been a valuable representative of Niles High School and will go far in her future endeavors."

"She is hard-working and dedicated and she demonstrates all the skills needed to succeed as a student and professional," wrote Nick Brittin, English instructor at Lake Michigan College.

Other scholarship winners include: Lena Illig of Alaska; Adrianna Flores and Kenny Trabanino of California; Danielle DuCasse, Charles Duron and Justin Ravelo of Florida; Jordan Hogan of Idaho; Amanda Tierney and Savannah Woodcock of Maine; Mark Wright of Maryland; Cory Ellis, Ethan Groothuis, Wade Heidbreder, Kyle Reinink, Devon Reppert and Carol Zunker of Michigan; Zachary Scott-Grunwald of Missouri; Kayla Malloch in New Hampshire; Emily Schroff of Oregon; and Jameson Varnado of Texas.

In its ninth year, LEEP has awarded some \$102,000 in Dream Scholarships to students showing a demonstrated interest in public service/law enforcement careers. The non-profit public safety group's scholarship program is made possible by a growing list of national supporters.

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