

Councilwoman Bonner Congratulates "Not on Your Life" Participants for Winning the Don MacKay Scholarship

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Scholarship awarded to students active in preventing tobacco, alcohol use by minors.



Pictured from left to right are ACES Project Director Lucille Buegers, Shoreham-Wading River High School Principal Kevin Vann, Shoreham-Wading River High School student Madeline Massa, Councilwoman Bonner and Rocky Point High School student Matthew Dell'Aquila.

Farmingville, NY - On May 4, Councilwoman Jane Bonner was in attendance at the Partners in Prevention Conference at Brookhaven Town Hall, where she congratulated the recipients of the Don MacKay Scholarship Award: Madeline

Massa of Shoreham-Wading River High School and Matthew Dell'Aquila of Rocky Point High School. Madeline and Matthew were given the honor due to their involvement in preventing underage drinking and tobacco use as part of the "Not on Your Life" program. "Not on Your Life" is part of a larger effort called the Alcohol Coalition of Eastern Suffolk (ACES), which is sponsored by the Eastern Suffolk BOCES Student Assistance Program. Councilwoman Bonner presented the two students with certificates of congratulations.

"I congratulate Madeline and Matthew for receiving this scholarship, and thank them for their efforts to keep alcohol and tobacco products away from children," said Councilwoman Bonner, "It is inspiring to see youngsters take such an active role in promoting issues of public health, especially those that affect their peers. As a mother and former school board member, I am grateful that ACES and 'Not on Your Life' are around to help spread awareness about the dangers of underage drinking and smoking."

The Don MacKay Scholarship Award is presented by Eastern Suffolk BOCES and recognizes students who participate in tobacco prevention efforts at their schools as part of the School Health Education Initiative, administered by Eastern Suffolk BOCES and the Suffolk County Department of Health. The award was named after the late Don MacKay, an employee of BOCES who was inspired to quit smoking after he witnessed students rehearsing the anti-smoking musical comedy revue "Hey Kids! It's Time to Butt-Out." Mr. MacKay would later pass away from a heart-attack at age 43.

The ACES project is funded by a grant from the United States Department of Education and is in its third and final year. ACES is a youth alcohol use reduction program of the Eastern Suffolk BOCES Student Assistance Service. Members of the Town of Brookhaven's Youth Bureau sit on the ACES Advisory Council. As part of the program, teams of volunteers reach out to vendors in the Rocky Point and Shoreham-Wading River area and ask them to agree to not sell alcohol and tobacco products to minors. These teams are made up of individuals from non-profit organizations, local government leaders, law enforcement members, parents, students, those faith-based organizations, and local businesses. The teams will also be taking notice of the location of alcohol and tobacco advertisements in relation to schools in playgrounds. Local businesses will be encouraged to display posters that show they do not support the sale of these products to underage customers.

For more information, please contact Lucille Buegers, ACES Project Director, at the Eastern BOCES Student Assistance Office at (631) 289-0078.

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