



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF
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**THE CLASS OF 2015 STEPPING UP AND STANDING OUT
11 ULSTER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS CHALLENGE THE STATUS QUO**

Kingston, NY (May 20, 2015) – From social justice to saving the world, eleven Ulster County High School Seniors have made their mark on their respective school and community and will be introduced as the Ulster County Comptroller's recipients of the Recognizing Success award at the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce Breakfast on Wednesday, May 27, 2015.

The county-wide program acknowledges area seniors who have been selected by their respective schools and have demonstrated a propensity for innovation, risk and achievement. Each student has launched a creative new approach, venture or enterprise for the public good and has advanced social, environmental or academic change through transformational ingenuity.

Participating in a medical mission to Guatemala, working as a counselor for children of migrant farm workers, teaching third graders how to read using a therapy dog and sitting as an active student member of the local school board are just a few of the achievements demonstrated by this group of students. Among their talents are students who have directed and choreographed a stage production, produced a film festival entry and published a literary magazine.

This year's Recognizing Success program, underwritten by Ryan and Ryan Insurance and Arold Construction, will showcase the following students:

| <u>SCHOOL</u> | <u>NAME</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Ellenville | Katherine Zenteno |
| Highland | Danielle Stoner |
| John A. Coleman | Thomas Netter |
| Kingston | Yasmine Aziz |
| Marlboro | Michael Appler |
| New Paltz | Alejandro Alvarez |
| Onteora | Laura Price |
| Rondout Valley | Kanani Schnider |
| Saugerties | Phoebe Defino |
| Wallkill | Rachel Simon |
| Woodstock Day School | Bianca Depietro |

"The nominations we received spoke beautifully about these young people," said Comptroller Elliott Auerbach. "It gives us needed hope for the future to know that these students understand the challenges of leadership and are unafraid to practice it."

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