

The Crystal Lake Strikers Drumline
Crystal Lake, Illinois

May 6, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CRYSTAL LAKE, IL – The Crystal Lake Strikers announce the recipients of scholarships presented to members of the Strikers student ensembles. These ensembles include over 150 students from area schools. In 14 years of awarding scholarships, the Strikers have provided over \$65,000 in support to young men and women continuing their education.

Natalie DuShane of Crystal Lake Central High School was presented the third Aaron Shepley Memorial Scholarship. Aaron was the mayor of Crystal Lake one of the founders of the Strikers who passed away suddenly in 2020. The community rallied to raise funds to support a cause in Aaron's name. His family decided to fund a scholarship with the money raised for the Strikers to present. Natalie is a two-year member of the Strikers All-Stars drumline, a mentor for the Strikers' Strike Force and Girls on the Drum middle school programs and participates in the Strikers adult group that performs in the summer. She will be studying computer science in college.

The eighth William Laskey memorial scholarship recipient is Ashley Naskrent from Jacobs High School in Algonquin. The scholarship is given in honor of Mr. Laskey, the longtime band director at Crystal Lake Community (Central) High School and director of the award-winning Heraldry Guard marching band. Mr. Laskey's former students felt a scholarship for a local music student was the ideal way to recognize his great work. Ashley has been a member of the Strikers All-Stars drumline for three seasons, Strikers Adult line for two and has served as a mentor for Strike Force and Kingpins, a drumline for people with special needs. She will be studying special education at Illinois State University.

Madison Diamond, a senior at Woodstock High School, was awarded the 14th Timothy Althoff Memorial scholarship. The scholarship is presented in honor of Mr. Althoff, the late husband of State Senator Pamela Althoff. He had a life-long love of drumming and his community. Given his wide involvement and many contributions to the area, the Althoff family has been supporting this scholarship since 2010. Madison is a four-year member of the Strikers All-Stars drumline and a mentor for Girls on the Drum. She will be studying environmental science at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point.

All three young women have seen the benefit of the performing arts:

"Discovering music transformed my life and provided an outlet for my self-expression," Natalie said. Ashley added, "The performing arts are such a big part of my life, and I cannot begin to imagine what my life would be like without them." Music has been life changing for Madison, as well. "Participating in music has helped me become more social and confident. It will always be in my life."

The scholarships were announced at the 14th Strikers' Evening of Percussion on February 10th. The Evening of Percussion features all eight of the Strikers performing ensembles including solo and specialty acts from their membership.

The Crystal Lake Strikers is a performing arts organization that provides a performance outlet for adult drummers and education for local students. To learn more about the Strikers, visit www.clstrikers.com.

For more information, contact Dan Chamberlain at 815/236-8615 or dan.chamberlain@clstrikers.com.