

# News Release



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Marine Trades Association of New Jersey Foundation Announces 2018 Scholarships and Educational Awards**

**Manasquan, NJ** – The Marine Trades Association of New Jersey (MTA/NJ) Foundation is pleased to announce the winners of their 2018 scholarships and educational awards. Since 2006, the MTA/NJ Education Foundation has awarded nearly \$25,000 to deserving students and has provided over \$10,000 towards marine education and training for members.

The MTA/NJ Family Scholarship, valued at \$1,500, is open to MTA/NJ members' children and their employees' children and can be applied to any higher education program. The 2018 MTA/NJ Family Scholarship was awarded to Thomas Beaton of Brielle, NJ. Thomas will begin his freshman year at Providence College in Rhode Island this fall where he plans to study business management and economics. Thomas's family owns David Beaton & Sons Boat Yard in Brick and it is his hope to be the fourth-generation owner of the business.

In addition to the 2018 MTA/NJ Family Scholarship, the Automotive Training Center in Warminster, Pennsylvania sponsored a half scholarship to their Marine Technician Program that the MTA/NJ administers and promotes. The recipient of the Automotive Training Center scholarship was Royal Parks of Bayville. Royal is graduating from Central Regional High School as well as Ocean County Vocational Technical School, Toms River Center. After completing his educational training, Royal plans to become a marine mechanic.

The MTA/NJ also awarded an outstanding student award for the purchase of tools for the trade to Robert Ziegenfuss from the Ocean County Vocational Technical School. Rob is graduating from the 2-year Marine Trades program at Ocean County Vocational Technical School with a 93 average. He participated in the NJ State SkillsUSA Marine Service Technology contest. At the state level, he won a Silver medal and a \$5,000 scholarship to attend Marine Mechanics Institute in Florida. Rob intends to attend MMI in the fall and then return to New Jersey after graduation to begin his career in the marine industry.

In addition to scholarships, the MTA/NJ Foundation is aggressively working to address workforce issues through marine training reimbursements, industry certification courses, and education and training in the

classroom and on the job for members and their employees. The MTA/NJ Foundation has provided over \$10,000 for training since 2014.

“We are incredibly thankful to everyone who has contributed to and continues to support the MTA/NJ Education Foundation,” stated MTA/NJ Executive Director, Melissa Danko. “Through the Foundation, we are able to give back to and help our members by providing scholarships and student awards as well as funding for education, training, and certifications to expand our workforce. We look forward to growing the Foundation even more to be able to further support the boating industry in New Jersey.”

For more information about the MTA/NJ Foundation or to make a donation, please contact the MTA/NJ office at 732-292-1051; email: [info@mtanj.org](mailto:info@mtanj.org).

### **About the MTA/NJ**

The Marine Trades Association of New Jersey (MTA/NJ), established in 1972, is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting, advancing, and protecting the recreational marine industry and waterways in the State of New Jersey. The MTA/NJ is dedicated to the interests of the industry for the benefit of its individual members and the consumers whom they serve. In addition to many accomplishments, the MTA/NJ produces two boat shows, the Jersey Shore Boat Sale & Expo held in September at FirstEnergy Park in Lakewood and the New Jersey Boat Sale & Expo held in February at the New Jersey Convention & Expo Center in Edison. The MTA/NJ proudly endorses the Progressive Insurance Atlantic City Boat Show.