From the Superintendent...

by Christine M. Johns, Ed.D.

Utica Community Schools graduates this year are leaving our community already demonstrating they are ready to become the different kind of leader emerging in today’s world.

The successful leaders who are guiding our future will adapt to change quickly, are innovative and have the confidence to confront the many challenges facing their generation. It is in this leadership environment that Utica Community Schools students are uniquely positioned to excel.

Recently, the Detroit Free Press ran a series of articles about how the economy of our region is becoming more and more dependent on the work of entrepreneurs. The series argues that this region’s future leaders will “confront and solve complex challenges that require multidisciplinary approaches in a collaborative enrollment.”

In essence, the type of skills that are already taking root in UCS classrooms - creativity, problem solving, collaborating with peers – is preparing our students to be successful leaders.

UCS provides students a competitive edge on their future

Just outside the school doors of Utica Community Schools, engineers from global companies are using technology to create virtual reality models of their new car designs.

Representing the future of design, engineers use virtual reality to test and modify their designs long before costs are associated with prototypes. They communicate with colleagues from across the world to share ideas that will one day make cars safer and more efficient.

Inside the doors of UCS classrooms, students at four elementary schools are now being introduced to the same virtual reality technology being used by corporate engineers.

This spring, UCS became the first Michigan district to offer zSpace Virtual Reality labs and is among the first to provide students with a diploma seal if they become proficient in both English and one or more global languages.

The new technology blends the real world with the virtual, allowing students to collaborate on activities ranging from exploring the inner workings of the human heart to designing and building circuit boards or examining the physics of the world’s tallest buildings—all in a 3D virtual environment.

Crisisman, Ebeling, Monfort and Schwarzkoff’ elementary schools are the first in the district to pilot this cutting-edge learning technology and Utica Community Schools is the first Michigan district to offer this powerful learning tool to its students.

In addition to preparing students for tomorrow’s technology, the district is also preparing its graduates to be able to work collaboratively with their peers throughout the world. Beginning with the Class of 2016, the district is awarding a Seal of Global Language for demonstrating proficiency in multiple languages.

This year, 157 students received recognition for mastering English and one or more
Our community’s pride — our UCS Class of 2016!

The Class of 2016 celebrated their many accomplishments and their bright futures at graduation ceremonies held in June. The class included 635 seniors from Eisenhower, 445 from Henry Ford II, 569 from Stevenson and 381 from Utica High who graduated at the Palace of Auburn Hills on June 11, as well as 84 seniors from Utica Academy for International Studies who graduated on June 7 at the Henry Ford II Performing Arts Center. Utica Community Schools also granted diplomas to another 124 students from the UCS Alternative Learning Center and UCS Adult Education programs on June 9 at the Ford II Performing Arts Center.

The UCS class of 2016 earned approximately $34 million in academic programs on June 9 at the Ford II Performing Arts Center. Community Schools also granted diplomas to another 124 students on June 7 at the Henry Ford II Performing Arts Center. Utica graduated at the Palace of Auburn Hills on June 11, as well as 84 seniors receiving the designation.

In addition to their home high schools, 76 students attended Utica Center for Science and Industry, while 67 students attended Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology.

Members of the class were accepted to nearly 200 different colleges and universities across Michigan, the nation and – in two cases – the world.

Our Class of 2016 not only showed they have the academic foundation to compete against any of their peers, they also have shown that extra something that demonstrates they are part of Utica Community Schools. These students have shown they are innovators, problem solvers and ready to be active members in their communities, state and beyond.

UCS honored 245 graduates as Advanced Placement Scholars for enrolling in at least four AP courses and earning a cumulative 3.67 GPA in all AP courses taken. Members of the class who belonged to the National Honor Society numbered 542.

This is the first year UCS awarded a Seal of Global Language to graduates who have received a designated level of proficiency in English and one or more other world languages. This year, 157 seniors received the designation.

The Board of Education recognized 476 of the graduates as UCS Academic Scholars for having attained a seven-semester GPA of 3.67 or above while taking part in extracurricular or community service activities. Approximately one-third of the class posted a 3.67 GPA and above) and 16 salutatorians, all of whom are profiled below.

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Julian Gabrail
Michigan State University
Major: Chemical Engineering
Awards: AP Scholar with Honors, National Honor Society, UC Academic Scholar

Joseph Gazzara
University of Michigan
Major: Business Administration and Chemistry
Awards: UCMS, George C. Marshall Chapter of the National Honor Society, AP Scholar with Distinction, USA Swimming Scholastic All-American, MAC All-Academic Team, U of M Regents Merit Scholarship Recipient, Eisenhower Boys Varsity Swimming Captain, Michigan Swimming Inc. Board of Directors Athlete Representative

Jordan George
James Madison and Honors College at Michigan State University
Major: Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy
Awards: National Honor Society, AP Scholar with Honors, UC Academic Scholar, UC Superintendent’s Scholarship, AHEPA Scholarship Recipient, Spanish National Honor Society, UC Superintendent’s Student Advisory Board, DAR Good Citizen Recipient, Seal of Global Language

Vincent Giacalone
University of Michigan
Major: Undecided
Awards: U of M Regents Merit Scholarship, National AP Scholar, Macomb County All-Academic Team, UC Academic Scholar, National Honor Society, National Spanish National Honor Society, Seal of Global Language

Jessica Guerra
Grand Valley State University
Major: Occupational Therapy
Awards: Student Council President, National Honor Society, AP Scholar, UC Superintendent’s Scholarship, UC Superintendent’s Student Advisory Board, Macomb Daily Student of the Week

Jacqueline Hinkson
Savannah College of Art and Design
Major: Advertising, Film/Television
Awards: Academic Scholarship, Achievement Scholarship, Student Incentive Scholarship, National Art Honor Society President, UC Academic Scholar

Sarah Houle
Wayne State University
Major: Pre-Pharmacy
Awards: UCAP Scholar, National Honor Society, UC Academic Scholar, Academic Scholarship

Kelliie Hurst
University of Detroit Mercy
Major: Biology
Awards: UC Superintendents Student Advisory Board, AP Scholar, UC Academic Scholar, National Honor Society, Key Club Treasurer, UDM Academic Scholarship Recipient

Natalie Kelly
Wayne State University
Major: Chemistry
Awards: Wayne State University’s Presidential Scholarship, Wayne State University Scholars Day Award, UC Academic Scholar, AP Scholar, National Honor Society, National French Honor Society

Sophia Khan
Oakland University
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Awards: AP Scholar, Oakland University Presidential Scholarship

Austin Kulik
Michigan State University
Major: Pre-Optometry
Awards: AP Scholar with Honors, National Honor Society

Erin Kulik
University of Michigan
Major: Biology
Awards: UCMS, National Honor Society, Regents Merit Scholarship from the University of Michigan

Alexis Langtry
University of Michigan
Major: Chemistry
Awards: National Honor Society, UC Academic Scholar, AP Scholar, Oakland University Presidential Scholarship

Vincent LaRocca
University of Michigan - College of Engineering
Major: Computer Science
Awards: National Honor Society, UCMS, AP Scholar, UC Academic Scholar, U of M First Year Scholarship

Dimitri Lialios
Oakland University Honors College
Major: Pre-Med - Biochemistry
Awards: National Honor Society, Ike’s Brightest, Oakland University Distinguished Scholar Award

Vince Marceau
Grand Valley State University Honors College
Major: Undecided
Awards: Presidential Award, GVU Merit Scholarship, National Honor Society

Allison Mason
Michigan State University
Major: Chemical Engineering
Awards: MSU Honors College Scholarship, AP Scholar, National Honor Society, Academy Scholar, Biology Student of the Year, National Art Honor Society

Olivia Metty
University of Alabama
Major: Engineering
Awards: Presidential Scholarship, National Honor Society, Regents Merit Scholarship, AP Scholar, National Honor Society, UC Academic Scholar, AP Scholar, Jay Samuel Hartt Scholarship from Michigan State University

Morgan Mooy
College of Wooster
Major: Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Awards: National Honor Society, AP Scholar

Sita Murali
University of Michigan
Major: Biology
Awards: UCMS, National Merit Finalist, AP Scholar with Distinction, University of Michigan Regents Scholarship, Community Choice Credit Union Scholarship, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Seal of Global Language

Brenna Noyes
Wayne State University
Major: Industrial Design
Awards: National Honor Society, UCAP Scholar, UC Academic Scholar, Eisenhower Varsity Dance Team Captain, 2016 Scholastics Silver Key

Stephen Ogden
Johns Hopkins University
Major: Physics
Awards: National Merit Finalist, Macomb County All-Academic Team, UC Academic Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, UCMS, Physics of Atomic Nuclei Summer Program at Notre Dame University

Elizabeth Pabian
Oakland University
Major: Nursing
Awards: AP Scholar, German National Honor Society, Oakland University Presidential Scholarship

Amelia Paliewicz
Michigan State University
Major: Psychology and Art
Awards: National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, UC Academic Scholar, AP Scholar, Jay Samuel Hartt Scholarship from Michigan State University

Julie Proffitt
Oakland University
Major: Nursing
Awards: National Honor Society, UC Academic Scholar, UC AP Scholar, UCMS, Oakland University Distinguished Scholarship, UC Superintendents Scholarship, National Honor Society

Jonathan Rheuma
Oakland University
Major: Engineering
Awards: UC Academic Scholar, Presidential Scholarship

Sarah Riedel
University of Michigan
Major: Chemistry
Awards: National Honor Society, German National Honor Society, AP Scholar, UC Academic Scholar, Seal of Global Language

Nafis Salam
Wayne State University
Major: Undecided
Awards: Distinguished Scholarship

Blake Sanborn
University of South Florida Honors College
Major: Pre-Med, Biomedical Engineering, Cardiology
Awards: National Honor Society, National French Honor Society, AP Scholar, University of South Florida Presidential and Honors College Scholarship, Hope College Presidential Scholarship, Alma College Trustee Honors Scholarship, Alma Josa Stice Referral Scholarship, Wayne State University Presidential Scholarship

Richard Sanna
University of Michigan
Major: Business
Awards: Macomb County All-Academic Team, UC Academic Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, Macomb NOW Magazine Standout Graduate, University of Michigan Regents Merit Scholarship, Lacrosse Academic All-American, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society Board Member, Seal of Global Language
Connor Schury  
Michigan State University  
Major: Biology  
Awards: Eagle Scout, National Honor Society, MSU STATE Scholarship, National Alumni Scholarship Competition, Semi-finalist, UCMST

Jessica Sierzenga  
Central Michigan University  
Major: Speech and Language Pathology  
Awards: German National Honor Society, Seal of Global Language

Michael Snider  
Oakland University Honors College  
Major: Accounting  
Awards: Wayne State Presidential Scholarship, Oakland University Distinguished Scholar Scholarship

Madison Tenhopen  
University of Michigan  
Major: Kinesiology  
Awards: Weneser Scholarship, AP Scholar, Project Unify 2 Vice President, National Honor Society, Spanish Club Vice President, Spanish National Honor Society, Varsity Softball Captain, Seal of Global Language

Christina Thomas  
University of Michigan  
Major: Neuroscience  
Awards: AP Scholar, UCMST Academic Scholar, National Honor Society, German National Honor Society

Giuseppe Vitale  
Western Michigan University  
Major: Biomedical Sciences  
Awards: English National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, AP Scholar, Academic Scholar, Athletic Soccer Scholarship, Dean Scholarship Western Michigan University, Spanish Club Vice President, U.S Soccer Development Academy player - Playing for Varadar-Roma F.C, Seal of Global Language

Shea Wittig  
University of Michigan  
Major: Medical  
Awards: AP Scholar, National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, National German Honor Society, Seal of Global Language

Bethany Zolewski  
University of Michigan  
Major: Business  
Awards: National Honor Society, AP Scholar

Cory Zayance  
University of Michigan  
Major: Neuroscience  
Awards: AP Scholar, Macomb County All-Academic Team, UCMST Academic Scholar, National Honor Society

Eisenhower Salutatorians  

John Akroush  
Oakland University  
Major: Computer Engineering  
Awards: AP Scholar, National Honor Society, Talented Scholar

Erin Kurtz  
Oakland University  
Major: Music Education  
Awards: Presidential Scholarship, AP Scholar

John Novak  
University of Michigan  
Major: Chemical Engineering  
Awards: U.S. Figure Skating Gold Distinction, UCSD Academic Scholar, UCAP Scholar, National Honor Society, Art Honor Society

Jacob Saia  
University of Minnesota  
Major: Biochemistry  
Awards: National Honor Society, AP Scholar, UCMST Academic Scholar, National French Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, Student Council Senior Class Vice President, Key Club President, French Club President

Brianna Vono  
Michigan State University  
Major: Elementary Education or Dietetics/Nutrition  
Awards: U.S. Figure Skating Gold Distinction, UCSD Academic Scholar, UCAP Scholar, National Honor Society, Art Honor Society

Bianna Zajac  
Michigan State University  
Major: Engineering  
Awards: AP Scholar, National Honor Society

Ford II High School VALEDICTORIANS  

Folasade Adegbearo  
University of Michigan  
Major: Neuroscience  
Awards: AP Honor Scholar, LSAS Scholarship, National Honor Society

Adela Barbora  
University of Michigan  
Major: Psychology  
Awards: Falcon Scholar, Presidential Scholar, National Technical Honor Society, National Honor Society

Ralf Bejko  
University of Michigan  
Major: Chemical Engineering  
Awards: Falcon Scholar Award, AP Scholar Award, Varsity Tennis Most Valuable Player Award

Sara Davis  
Michigan State University  
Major: Biology  
Awards: High School Scholar, All American, AP Scholar, Falcon Scholar, Varsity Soccer MAC Red Champion, District Champion, Regional Finalist, National Honor Society, Seal of Global Language

Ryan Henigan  
Wayne State University  
Major: Biostatistics  
Awards: U of M Flint - DEEP, AP Scholar with Distinction, Math Department Award, HOSA co-secretary, National Honor Society

Marcus Djeckic  
Wayne State University  
Major: Chemical Engineering  
Awards: National Honor Society, Wayne State Distinguished Scholarships, AP Scholar

Gabrielle Duncan  
University of Toledo  
Major: Pharmacy  
Awards: Early College of Macomb, National Honor Society President, Honors Merit Award, Out of State Award, Pharmacy Excellence Scholarship, Michigan Youth Appreciation Foundation and Metro Detroit Youth Day Scholarship, AP Scholar

Marian Farah  
University of Michigan  
Major: Chemical Engineering  
Awards: Science Department Award, Math Department Award, French/Foreign Language Award, AP Scholar with Distinction, St. Joseph Family Foundation Scholarship, National Honor Society, French National Honor Society, Seal of Global Language

Jacob Gottuso  
Michigan State University  
Major: Human Biology  
Awards: High School Scholar, All American, AP Scholar, Falcon Scholar, Varsity Soccer MAC Red Champion, District Champion, Regional Finalist, National Honor Society, Seal of Global Language

Mikela Jekovic  
University of Michigan  
Major: Biology  
Awards: U of M Flint - DEEP, AP Scholar with Distinction, Math Department Award, HOSA co-secretary, National Honor Society

Marlin Kalemaj  
Lawrence Technological University  
Major: Electrical Engineering  
Awards: AP Scholar, National Honor Society

Anna Kang  
Michigan State University  
Major: Chemistry  
Awards: U of M Regents Scholarship, Friends of Macomb Township Scholarship, AP Scholar with Distinction, Macomb County All Academic Team, Gold Medal in Michigan State Taekwondo Championships, Gold Medal State of Michigan Martial Arts Commissioner’s Championship, Gold Trophy in the Annual Michigan Open Governor’s Cup Martial Arts Championships, Korean Institute of Chicago’s Director Award, Students Against Destructive Decisions Club Co-President, National Honor Society Co-President, UCMST

Morgan Lessl  
Michigan State University  
Major: Biology  
Awards: National Art Honor Society, Scholastic Silver Key, National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, Falcon Scholar, Student of the Month

Kristina Lulgjuraj  
Wayne State University  
Major: Biomedical Sciences  
Awards: Wayne State Distinguished Scholarship, Wayne State Honors College Scholarship, UCMST Superintendent’s Scholarship, National Honor Society

Alexandra Manaia  
University of Michigan  
Major: Biology  
Awards: AP Scholar with Honor, UCMST Top Ten Academic Award, General Dynamics Land System Scholarship

Jessica Jackowicz  
University of Michigan  
Major: Public Policy  
Awards: Michael Wells Memorial Scholarship, AP Scholar, National Honor Society

Anna Sitzmann  
University of Michigan  
Major: History  
Awards: U of M Regents Scholarship, AP Scholar, National Honor Society
Performance, National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society

Daniel Mathew
Northwestern University
Major: Neuroscience and Honors Program in Medical Education
Awards: US Presidential Scholar Award, UCMST, HOSA State Secretary 2015-2016, Macomb County All-Academic Team, National Merit Finalist, AP Scholar with Distinction

Madison Matiland
Oakland University
Major: Bioengineering
Awards: Oakland University President's Scholarship, AP Scholar, Seal of Global Language

Joseph McMullen
University of Michigan
Major: Chemical Engineering
Awards: UCMST, NDIA Michigan STEM Scholarship, Sterling Heights Community Foundation Ford Motor Company Scholarship, Thunder-Chicken Robotics VP of Engineering, Students Against Destructive Decisions President, National Honor Society, National Merit Scholar Finalist, AP Scholar with Distinction, American Chemical Society Chemisty Olympiad Honorable Mention, UCMST

Taya Pantaleo
Oakland University
Major: Nursing
Awards: Falcon Scholar, Early College of Macomb, Oakland University Presidential Scholarship, Michigan District of Key Club Scholarship, National Honor Society

Kush Patel
University of Michigan
Major: Biomedical Engineering
Awards: UCMST, HOSA Vice President, Thunder-Chickens Robotics Team, UCS Indian American Student Association Treasurer, Henry Ford II Varsity Tennis Team Captain, National Honor Society, Regents Merit Scholarship at University of Michigan, Michigan Merit Commended Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction

Rebecca Roman
Michigan State University
Major: Music Composition
Awards: Early College of Macomb, National Merit Scholar Finalist, National Honor Society, MSU Special Merit Award, MSU STATE Scholarship, MSU Gilpin Scholarship

Sophia Serra
Michigan Technological University
Major: Engineering
Awards: National Honor Society, AP Scholar, Falcon Scholar, U.S. Marines Distinguished Athletic Award, MAC All-Academic Team, Macomb County All-Academic Team

Angel Stallings
Central Michigan University
Major: Accounting or Economics
Awards: Academic Excellence Scholarship, Multicultural Award of Distinction Scholarship, Kwanus Club Scholarship for Community Service, UCS Superintendent’s Scholarship, Leadership Captain, National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, French National Honor Society

Alayna Steixner
Michigan State University
Major: Business Law
Awards: National Honor Society Co-President, HOSA State Finalist, AP Scholar, Falcon Scholar, National Technical Society, International Thespian Society Vice President, Seal of Global Language

Jacob Wilkiewicz
Michigan State University
Major: Pre-Med
Awards: AP Scholar, Falcon Scholar, National Honor Society, UCA Academic Scholar

Katherine Wolff
University of Michigan
Major: Aerospace Engineering
Awards: UCMST, University of Michigan Regents Scholarship, General Dynamics Land Systems Scholarship, DAR Good Citizen Award Scholarship, National Merit Finalist, Macomb County All-Academic Team, UCMST Top Ten, AP Scholar with Distinction, Falcon Scholar, National Honor Society, Michigan District of Kwanus International Board of Directors, Secretary of Michigan District of Key Club International, Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition Competitor, genetics research at Johns Hopkins University

Sophia Zilkevska
University of Detroit Mercy
Major: Physician Assistant
Awards: National Honor Society, AP Scholar, Falcon Scholar, National Technical Honor Society

Taylor Camacho
Macomb Community College
Major: Biology
Awards: National Honor Society, Early College of Macomb, Presidential Scholarship

Ceron Larson
Oakland University
Major: General Management
Awards: UCS Superintendent’s Scholarship, National Honor Society, Oakland University Distinguished Scholar Award, MAC All-Academic Team for Tennis, Baseball, and Basketball, Varsity Basketball Captain, Varsity Baseball Captain

Nicholas Schilkey
Michigan State University
Major: Business
Awards: AP Scholar, National Honor Society, DECA Internationals

Jack Studzinski
Michigan State University
Major: Computer Science
Awards: UCMST, MSU alumni Distinguished Scholar Semi-finalist, National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society

Madeline Brender
Michigan State University
Major: Physiology
Awards: St. Timothy Award, National Honor Society, French Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, MAC All-Academic Tennis, All-County Dream Team for Tennis, Varsity Basketball, MAC All-Academic Team Basketball, MAC All-County Team Basketball, Macomb County All-Academic Team Basketball, Seal of Global Language

Kathleen Capozzello
Bowling Green State University
Major: Business
Awards: University Freshman Academic Scholarship, BS Success Scholarship, Alissa Czisny ‘09 Entrepreneurship Scholarship, Michael and Mary Lee McGranaghan Academic Excellence Scholarship, Macomb County All-Academic Team, AP Scholar with Distinction, Co-Chair of State Leadership Conference for Michigan Association of Student Councils and Honor Societies, National Honor Society Vice President, Spanish National Honor Society Co-President, Forensics State Qualifier, National Society for High School Scholars, Unsung Hero Award, Seal of Global Language

Stevenson High School Valedictorians

Rachel Arnold
Michigan State University
Major: Undecided
Awards: National Honor Society, AP Scholar

Samantha Belz
Oakland University
Major: Computer Engineering/ Electrical Engineering
Awards: Full scholarship to Oakland University, Lawrence Tech Presidential Scholarship, Kettering Academic Scholarship, AP Scholar, Stevenson Scholar, Lawrence Tech Scholarship Competition, UCS Superintendent’s Scholarship, Social Studies Olympiad Gold Medal, UCS Superintendent’s Student Advisory Board, Junior Leadership Macomb Graduate, National Honor Society, Social Studies Olympiad Bronze Medal

Joshua Eck
Michigan State University
Major: Biomedical Engineering
Awards: Four year Varsity Athlete, three-time MAC All-Academic Lacrosse player, MAC All-Academic Red football player, Stevenson Football record holder for fumble recoveries in a career, Ford Motor Scholarship, Knights of Columbus Scholarship, National Honor Society, National Society of High School Scholars

Dylan Gaines
Michigan Technological University
Major: Computer Science
Awards: UCMST, Macomb County All-Academic Team, Chrysler Foundation Scholarship, MAC All-Academic Team for Cross Country, National Honor Society, National Honor Society, AP Scholar

Karen Havell
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Major: Pre-Med
Awards: National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, French Honor Society, French Club President, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Full Athletic Scholarship for Gymnastics, Jon H. Poteat Scholarship Recipient, Four-time Junior Olympic National Gymnastics Competitor

Karen Harris
Wayne State University
Major: Engineering
Awards: Wayne State Scholarship

Robert D’Angelo
Oakland University
Honors College
Major: Engineering/ Undecided
Awards: UCMST, Oakland University Presidential Scholarship, National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, UCMST Top Ten Student, AP Scholar with Distinction
Superintendent’s message

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As this newsletter demonstrates, Utica Community Schools students learn in an environment that is challenging, rigorous and offers real-world experiences. You also see how those experiences are making a difference in the goals and determination of our nearly 210 valedictorians and salutatorians featured in this edition.

In this group of graduates, we have students who are breaking down barriers and stamping-out stereotypes. On their own they are mentoring younger students through struggles they may have experienced as they became young adults. These graduates have the skills, confidence and passion to create change before they even leave high school.

Their understanding of the role they have to form their own futures is part of the foundation we are creating in Utica Community Schools. Given the environment they will face when they move onto college and careers, it is a foundation that will ensure their UCS diplomas will be the key that will open doors for them throughout their lives.

Awards: Questbridge Scholarship, Oakland University Presidential Scholarship, Wayne State University Presidential Scholarship, High Achieving Involved Leader Scholarship at the University of Michigan, National Honor Society, National French Honor Society, and Le Grand Concours Certificate of Honor

Emily Bednar
Saint Mary’s College
Major: Nursing
Awards: Key Club District Board Member, Inducted National Honor Society

Sarah Bussineau
Oakland University
Major: Undecided
Awards: UCS Superintendent’s
Elise Gertsch  
Brigham Young University  
Major: Political Science  
Awards: National Merit Finalist, National Merit Corporate Scholarship, National Honor Society, Société Honoraire de Français, Outstanding Young Women of Utah, Utah State University, Utah State University President's Scholarship, Utah State University Presidential Scholarship, Utah State University Presidential Scholarship, Utah State University Presidential Scholarship, Utah State University Presidential Scholarship, Utah State University Presidential Scholarship, Utah State University Presidential Scholarship, Utah State University Presidential Scholarship, Utah State University Presidential Scholarship, Utah State University Presidential Scholarship, Utah State University Presidential Scholarship, Utah State University Presidential Scholarship, Utah State University Presidential Scholarship, Utah State University Presidential Scholarship, Utah State University Presidential Scholarship, Utah State University Presidential Scholarship, Utah State University Presidential Scholarship, 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Kaitlyn Schneider
Michigan State University
Major: Marketing
Awards: National Honor Society, Theatre, French Club, National French Honor Society, Le Grand Concours certificat d’honneur, Macomb Area Conference Award, Best Entertainer Award

Dennis Selmani
University of Michigan
Major: Business
Awards: National Honor Society, Seal of Global Language

Jessica Shaig
Wayne State University
Major: Pre-Pharmacy
Awards: GPA Award, MSU Future Docs, National Honor Society, French National Honor Society, Art National Honor Society, IASA

Joseph Solomon
University of Michigan
Major: Biomedical Engineering
Awards: Two-time Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition Part 1 Finalist, National Federation of Music Three- and Six-year Superior Award, Eisenhower Junior Varsity Basketball Hustle Award and Athletic Award for Sportmanship and Teamwork, Eisenhower Eagles Varsity Tennis Best Varsity Rookie Award, Eisenhower Varsity Award in Tennis, Student Advisory Board President

Alexander Warner
Grand Valley State University
Major: Marketing
Awards: Spanish Club Vice President, Spanish National Honor Society, National Honor Society

Breno Wolyniec Gallate Ribeiro
University of Michigan
Major: Chemical Engineering
Awards: Marching Band Trumpet Section Leader, District MSBOA Marching Band Festival Division 1 Rating, District MSBOA Solo and Ensemble Division 1 Rating, UAIS Video Game Club President, National Honor Society

Hui We
University of Michigan
Major: Biochemistry
Awards: National Honor Society, French National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society

Brenna Wyffels
Grand Valley State University
Major: Pre-Med Health Sciences
Awards: AP Scholar, National Merit Scholar Honorable Mention, National Honor Society, Sterling Heights Foundation Scholarship from Ford Motor Company

Jessica Cummings
University of Michigan
Major: Movement Science/Physical Therapy
Awards: AP Scholar with Distinction, Outstanding AP Biology Student, MHSAA All Academic Team, AP Scholar, UCS Academic Scholar, Outstanding AP English Student, Presidential Award, Marching Band Drum Major - MSBOA Festival Division I, Key Club President, National Hispanic Honor Society Secretary, National Honor Society

Gina Duff
Michigan State University
Major: Supply Chain Management
Awards: UCS Academic Scholar, AP Scholar, National Hispanic Honor Society Treasurer, National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, Class President, President’s Award, Principal’s Medallion, Varsity Volleyball Captain

Ryan Easterbrook
Oakland University
Major: Environmental Science
Awards: Talented Scholar Award, Outstanding English Student, Outstanding Psychology Student, Outstanding MS Office Student, President’s Education Award, Academic Scholar, Kiwanis Club Scholarship, Advance Placement Scholar, Marge Archibald-Gus Vaccs Staff Scholarship, National Honor Society

Yasmin Gad
Oakland University
Major: Computer Science
Awards: AP Scholar, UCS Academic Scholar, National Honor Society, President’s Award

Cameron Gudobba
University of Chicago
Major: Biological Sciences
Awards: UCS Academic Scholar, AP Scholar, Macomb County All-Academic Team, National Honor Society, National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist, AP Scholar with Distinction, UCMS, President’s Award, First Robotics Competition President, National Science Bowl Captain

Annalise Guitar
University of Michigan
Major: Actuarial Mathematics
Awards: National Honor Society Treasurer, Varsity Dance Team Co-Captain, UCS Superintendent’s Student Advisory Board, AP Scholar, UC Academic Scholar, Student Council, Spanish National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, UHS Athletic Booster Club Scholarship, President’s Award, Oakland University Distinguished Scholar, Macomb County All-Academic Team, Seal of Global Language

Shannon Habba
University of Michigan Dearborn
Major: Pharmacy
Awards: UCS Academic Scholar, National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, Principal’s Medallion

Christopher Haley
Wayne State University
Major: Business Management
Awards: 2016 Scholastic Art Awards Michigan Thumb Region Silver Key, AP Scholar, President’s Award for Educational Excellence, Academic Scholar, UCS AP Scholar, Mike Illitch School of Business MBA Program Scholarship, Wayne State Distinguished Scholarship, Wayne State Business School Scholarship, Irvin D. Reid Honors College Scholarship, Kiwanis Club of Sterling Heights Scholarship, Friends of Macomb Township Scholarship, AP Scholar

Brittney Hall
Western Michigan University
Major: Health Sciences
Awards: UCS Academic Scholar, AP Scholar, National Technical Honor Society

Brianne Halliwill
Central Michigan University
Major: Biology
Awards: UCS AP Scholar, UCS Academic Scholar, National Honor Society, National Hispanic Honor Society, President’s Award

Ashlie Have
University of Michigan
Major: Biomolecular Science
Awards: UCS Academic Scholar, AP Scholar, National Honor Society, AP Scholar, UCMST, President’s Award

Sara Hayes
Grand Valley State University
Major: Nursing or Occupational Therapy
Awards: UCS Academic Scholar, AP Scholar, National Honor Society

UCS Competitive Edge
continued from page 1

other world languages. To earn a Seal of Global Language, students must complete all requirements for graduation and meet proficiency on state standardized exams for English language arts.

Recognition is given with a gold seal on the diploma and students receive a cord to wear at commencement to recognize their achievement. Global language proficiency will also be noted on high school transcripts.

The Seal of Global Language honors and celebrates the diversity of UCS students and families while preparing students for careers in a global society.
Ryan Herc
Oakland University
Major: Pharmacy
Awards: UCS Academic Scholar, UHS Principal’s Service Award, National Honor Society, Oakland University Merit Scholarship, Dr. James Langfeldt M.D. Memorial Scholarship, St. John Macomb Hospital Auxiliary Merit Scholarship, Louis Gonda Music Scholarship, Utica Marching Band Section Leader, Wayne State Gold Scholarship, Wayne State Irvin D. Reid Honors College Scholarship, Presidential Scholar Award

Nicole Morsfield
Oakland University
Major: Journalism
Awards: UCS Academic Scholar, AP Scholar, Early College of Macomb, Dean’s List 2015, National Society of High School Scholars, President’s Award

Magnus Reyes
University of Michigan
Major: Computer Science
Awards: AP Scholar, UCS Academic Scholar, Macomb County All-Academic Team, National Honor Society, National Merit Scholarship Commended, AP Scholar with Distinction, UCMST, President’s Award, UCMST

Jack Kraemer
Oakland University
Major: Undecided
Awards: UCS Academic Scholar, AP Scholar, President’s Award, Oakland University Presidential Scholarship, National Honor Society, National Hispanic Honor Society, Outstanding Math Student, Varsity Basketball Captain

Dante Paglia
Michigan Technological University
Major: Computer Science
Awards: UCS Academic Scholar, National Technical Honor Society, President’s Award, Principal’s Medallion, VEX Robotics, Team America Rocketry Challenge

Erika Schemmell
University of Alabama
Major: Chemical Engineering
Awards: AP Scholar, UCS Academic Scholar, National Honor Society, AP Scholar with Honor, UCMST, President’s Award, Varsity Cross Country Captain

Grace Lewis
Michigan State University - Lyman Briggs College
Major: Genomics & Molecular Genetics
Awards: UCS Academic Scholar, AP Scholar, Macomb County All-Academic Team, National Honor Society, UCST, U of M - Flint DEEP, President’s Award

Dante Paglia
Grand Valley State University
Major: Biomedical Sciences
Awards: U of M - Flint DEEP, President’s Award, National Honors Society

Sophia Simboli
Oakland University
Major: Psychology
Awards: AP Scholar, UCS Academic Scholar, National Honor Society, AP Scholar with Honors, UCST, President’s Award

Tristan Lupinski
University of Alabama
Major: Chemical Engineering
Awards: Presidential Scholarship University of Alabama, College of Engineering Scholarship University of Alabama, President’s Award, UCS AP Scholar, AP Scholar, Academic Scholar, UCMST, Outstanding Spanish Student, Macomb County All-Academic Team, National Honor Society, National Hispanic Honor Society, Varsity Ice Hockey-Assistant Captain, Hobey Baker Award-Hockey, MAC All-Academic Team for Cross Country and Track and Field, UCMST Top 10 Award

Sophia Simboli
Macomb Community College
Major: Undecided
Awards: UCS Academic Scholar, Quill & Scroll International Journalism Honor Society, Karate Red Belt/Black Stripe, Newspaper Crown Award Finalist

Karolina Ptak
Undecided
Major: Visual Arts and Psychology
Awards: AP Scholar, UCS Academic Scholar, National Honor Society, AP Scholar with Distinction, UCST, President’s Award, UCST Student Council

Paige Spinaile
Oakland University
Major: Engineering
Awards: AP Scholar, UCS Academic Scholar, National Honor Society, AP Scholar, National Hispanic Honor Society, President’s Award, Principal’s Medal, Varsity Basketball Captain, French Club Co-Vice President

MacKenzie Stamatakos
Michigan State University
Major: Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy
Awards: AP Scholar, UCS Academic Scholar, AP Scholar with Honor, President’s Award, UCMST

Stephen Stockman
University of Michigan College of Engineering
Major: Computer Science
Awards: AP Scholar, UCS Academic Scholar, Macomb County All-Academic Team, National Honor Society, Early College of Macomb, UCMST, President’s Award

Tayler Pezanowski
Macomb Community College
Major: Undecided
Awards: UCS Academic Scholar, AP Scholar, National Honor Society, UCST, U of M - Flint DEEP, President’s Award

Sophia Simboli
University of Michigan
Major: Undecided
Awards: AP Scholar, UCS Academic Scholar, National Honor Society, AP Scholar with Honors, UCST, President’s Award

Natalie Suchoski
Michigan State University
Major: Mathematics
Awards: Early College of Macomb, National Honor Society, Hispanic Honor Society, Utica High Booster Club Scholarship, American Legion Auxiliary Memorial Scholarship, NDIA-Michigan Chapter STEM Scholarship, Shelby Township Lions Club Scholarship, MSCCU Educational Solutions Scholarship, Bathanti D'Agostino Memorial Scholarship, Utica High School Chieftain Academic Scholar, AP Scholar, Macomb County All-Academic Team, Macomb Community College Dean’s List, Outstanding Mathematics Student, President’s Education Award, Michigan Tech Chapter of Society of Women Engineers Award

Ashley Waddell
College for Creative Studies
Major: Illustration
Awards: AP Scholar, UCS Academic Scholar, National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, UCST, Scholastics Art & Writing Awards: 3 Gold Key, 2 Silver Key, 8 Honorable Mentions, President’s Award

Kendra Wierzbicki
University of Toledo
Major: Nursing
Awards: AP Scholar, UCS Academic Scholar, National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, National Hispanic Honor Society

Carina Willcock
Eastern Michigan University
Major: Wildlife Biology
Awards: Utica AP Scholar, UCS Academic Scholar, National Honor Society, U of M - Flint DEEP, AP Scholar, President’s Award, Principal’s Medal, National Society of High School Scholars

Dean Wundrach
Michigan State University - Lyman Briggs College
Major: Pre-Med and Psychology
Awards: Utica AP Scholar, UCS Academic Scholar, National Honor Society, German National Honor Society, President’s Award

Nicole Morsfield
Oakland University
Major: Journalism
Awards: UCS Academic Scholar, AP Scholar, Early College of Macomb, Dean’s List 2015, National Society of High School Scholars, President’s Award

Andrew Nguyen
Wayne State University
Major: Pre-Pharmacy
Awards: UCS Academic Scholar, Utica AP Scholar, National Honor Society, National Hispanic Honor Society

Erika Schemmell
University of Alabama
Major: Chemical Engineering
Awards: AP Scholar, UCS Academic Scholar, National Honor Society, AP Scholar with Honor, UCMST, President’s Award, Varsity Cross Country Captain

Brianna Senkus
Oakland University
Major: Psychology
Awards: Oakland Educational Scholarship, National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society

Natalie Suchoski
Michigan State University
Major: Mathematics
Awards: Early College of Macomb, National Honor Society, Hispanic Honor Society, Utica High Booster Club Scholarship, American Legion Auxiliary Memorial Scholarship, NDIA-Michigan Chapter STEM Scholarship, Shelby Township Lions Club Scholarship, MSCCU Educational Solutions Scholarship, Bathanti D’Agostino Memorial Scholarship, Utica High School Chieftain Academic Scholar, AP Scholar, Macomb County All-Academic Team, Macomb Community College Dean’s List, Outstanding Mathematics Student, President’s Education Award, Michigan Tech Chapter of Society of Women Engineers Award

Carina Willcock
Eastern Michigan University
Major: Wildlife Biology
Awards: Utica AP Scholar, UCS Academic Scholar, National Honor Society, U of M - Flint DEEP, AP Scholar, President’s Award, Principal’s Medal, National Society of High School Scholars

Dean Wundrach
Michigan State University - Lyman Briggs College
Major: Pre-Med and Psychology
Awards: Utica AP Scholar, UCS Academic Scholar, National Honor Society, German National Honor Society, President’s Award

Utica Salutatorians

Jonathan Goetsch
Harvard University
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Awards: UCS Academic Scholar, Utica AP Scholar, National Honor Society, Senior Mentor, President’s Award

Katelyn Pawlowicz
Macomb Community College
Major: Optometry
Awards: UCS Academic Scholar, National Honor Society, Seal of Global Language

Focus 9

Silver Key, 8 Honorable Mentions, President’s Award
Dinner with a Winner, honor-
arship Awards Celebration,
annual Superintendent’s Schol-
proudly celebrated its seventh
Utica Community Schools
Back row l to r:  Samuel Jacinto, Nicklas Bara, Manraj Pannu, Kyle Maciomeni, Mateusz Leszczynski, Jordan George,
Class of 2016 Superintendent’s Scholarship Recipients
UCS Foundation for Educational
of  2016 embody the meaning
Our 52 recipients in the Class
to $117,000.
postsecondary tuition awards
the total dollar amount of
Scholarships were awarded,
Twenty-seven Superintendent’s
The Palazzo Grande.
Senior’s on April 28, 2016 at
ing deserving UCS graduating

Class of 2016 Superintendent’s Scholarship Recipients
Back row l to r:  Samuel Jacinto, Nicklas Bara, Manraj Pannu, Kyle Maciomeni, Mateusz Leszczynski, Jordan George,
Kevin Bologna, Jessica Guerra
Second row l to r:  Angel Stallings, Julie Proffitt, Courtney Clark, Alexa Kasparik, Kayla Croud, Alec Connell, Brittnay Hall
Third row l to r:  Dan Wesner, Susan Rosso, Steve Truman, Dr. Robert Ross, Dr. Christine Johns, Gene Klida, Robert Van Camp,
Robert Wilcoes, Les Gilbert
Front row l to r:  Emily Parker, Samantha Belz, Sarah Bussineau, Marina Mossa, Kristina Lulgjuraj, Natalie Garcia, Jaymi Gittens

FOCUS10

FOCUS for the Community

UCS Foundation for Educational Excellence Superintendent’s Scholarships

Utica Community Schools proudly celebrated its seventh annual Superintendent’s Scholarship Awards Celebration, Dinner with a Winner, honoring deserving UCS graduating seniors on April 28, 2016 at The Palazzo Grande.

Twenty-seven Superintendent’s Scholarships were awarded, along with 28 community-based scholarships, bringing the total dollar amount of postsecondary tuition awards to $117,000.

Our 52 recipients in the Class of 2016 embody the meaning of UCS Success by excelling in academics, displaying leadership, serving the community

Twenty-seven Superintendent’s Scholarships were awarded, along with 28 community-based scholarships, and overcoming personal challenges. These graduating seniors plan to continue their education at a university, community college or technical institution.

The Utica Community Schools Foundation for Educational Excellence has funded the Superintendent’s Scholarship program since its inception in 2009 from the proceeds of the annual Evening of Excellence event.

We salute the volunteer members of the UCS Foundation and the other dedicated organizations and individuals for their generous support to enrich and expand educational opportunities for Utica Community Schools’ students.

www.uticak12.org
Find updates from Utica Community Schools on:

UAIS & All Four Utica Community Schools High Schools Ranked Among Most Academically Challenging in Michigan
The Washington Post
As featured in The Washington Post Challenge List April 2016

Notice of Nondiscrimination
In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act and the Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act, it is the policy of Utica Community Schools that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, age, disability, height, weight, or marital status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination during any instructional opportunities, programs, services, job placement assistance, employment or in policies governing student conduct and attendance. Any person suspecting a discriminatory practice should contact the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources at Utica Community Schools, 11303 Greendale, Sterling Heights, MI 48312 or call (586) 797-1000.

UCS District Calendar 2016-2017

September 6
First Day of School
Elementary Half Day
Secondary Full Day
October 31
Elementary Half Day
Secondary Full Day
November 8
No School
November 17
Evening Conferences
All Students Half Day
November 23
Thanksgiving Break Begins
No School
November 28
School Resumes
December 23
Winter Break Begins
No School
January 4
School Resumes
January 16
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
No School
January 18
Secondary Exams
Elementary Full Day
Secondary Half Day
January 19
Secondary Exams
All Students Half Day
January 20
Secondary Exams
All Students Half Day
February 20
Mid-Winter Break Begins
No School
February 27
School Resumes
March 31
Elementary Half Day
Secondary Full Day
April 3
Spring Break Begins
No School
April 10
School Resumes
April 14
Good Friday
No School
May 26
Memorial Day Weekend
No School
May 30
School Resumes
June 13
Secondary Exams
Elementary Full Day
Secondary Full Day
June 14
Secondary Exams
Elementary Full Day
Secondary Half Day
June 15
Last Day of School
Secondary Exams
All Students Half Day

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Carol Klenow, Ed.D., President
Gene L. Klida, Vice President
Michele Templeton, Secretary
Robert A. Ross, Ph.D., Treasurer
Jennifer L. Prybys, Trustee
Ken Krolczyk, Trustee
Mary K. Thomas, Ph.D., Trustee
Christine M. Johns, Ed.D., Superintendent

FOCUS for the Community
Editor: Tim McAvoy

586.797.1000