

COMMUNITY NEWS

TEN STUDENTS RECEIVED AWARDS THIS YEAR

ACC's golf outing supports scholarships

By Natasha Dado

The Arab American News

The Arab American and Chaldean Council (ACC) held its 8th annual golf outing and scholarship awards dinner Wednesday at the Shenandoah Country Club in West Bloomfield.

Scholarships were awarded to high school seniors who excel academically and are in need of financial support for college.

"We would like to support students who are in need of scholarships. It's our commitment to improve the quality of life for students and those who are in need. Financial conditions should not prevent them from pursuing their education," ACC president and CEO Dr. Haifa Fakhouri said.

Golfers began playing at 11:15 a.m. followed by a silent auction at 4 p.m. and the awards dinner ceremony at 5 p.m.

Last year's award recipients graduated with a 4.0 GPA or higher. According to Bob Ghannam, ACC special projects director, this year a 3.85 was the lowest GPA maintained among scholarship recipients.

"When you read some of the stories about the scholarship applicants it's just amazing what these students are doing," Ghannam said.

Scholarship awardees were Talal Aboufakhr, Sahar Adora, Najwan Augustin, Marwan Boulis, Rose Brewart, Rayan El-Zein, Yarob Fakhoury, Robin Kassis, Olivia Najor and Tamara Naoum.

Fakhouri hopes more women get encouraged to submit their requests and credentials for scholarships to continue their education.

Scholarship donors included Stephan Honorowski of Pepsi, ACC board members Salman Sesi, Louie Boji and Fr. John Badeen, the CIA, Detroit International Bridge Co., Abe Munfakh of Munfakh & Assoc., ACC President and CEO Dr. Haifa Fakhouri and Michigan Food and Beverage Association



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(MFBA) and Michigan Business Professional Association (MBPA) President Ed Deeb.

Awardees were a diverse group.

"You see the awardees are (both) Muslims and Christians from different countries," Jawad Marzook said.

"We want it to be diverse and represent a cross section of the community from Lebanese, Syrian, Iraqi Chaldeans, Yemenis and others. We are pleased to have a diverse group this year," Fakhouri said.

Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon and Steve Honorowski, regional sales director of Pepsi Beverages Company, served as honorary chairpersons for the event.

"Here in Detroit we all know the great work ACC does. It's a social service agency that helps so many move forward, make their way, and live the American dream. We know it serves the large immigrant population, but it also serves the large population of Detroiters and other folks from



ACC's scholarship donors and recipients.

PHOTOS: Natasha Dado/ TAAN



Golfers enjoyed the beautiful day at Shenandoah Country Club in West Bloomfield.

around the metro area who have no connection to the Arab and Chaldean community," guest speaker Michigan Attorney General and Republican candidate for governor Mike Cox said.

The ACC hopes it can raise money for even more scholarships in the future.

"I (hope) we can raise more money to give to many other students. The competition was extremely tough. Many students had to be disqualified because we had a minimum amount of dollars for scholars, but I hope and I promise we will double that number," Fakhouri said. ■