



Freeport  
High School  
Scholarship  
Foundation

**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 2, 2021

The newly created Freeport High School Scholarship Foundation recently announced its first ever scholarship awards – one to a graduating senior and one to a junior at Freeport High School. The scholarships are in the amount of \$5,000 per year for up to four years and are awarded to students who will attend college or technical or vocational schools. This year's awardees were Senior Aynslie Decker of Durham and Junior Ellie Whittier of Freeport. Decker plans to attend the University of New England this fall. Whittier will receive her award at the time of her graduation in 2022, and her post-graduation plans have not been finalized.

The Foundation's scholarships are unique in both the size of the awards and in making juniors eligible to receive them, to help incentivize their post-graduation plans. Scholarships are awarded to students who have strong potential, who are significantly engaged in their community and school life but are financially challenged in their ability to go on to higher education or training after high school. An additional and unique feature of these scholarships is the offer of mentoring to student awardees. Research has shown that providing mentoring to post-high school students enhances academic performance and improves the likelihood of students completing a course of study.

The Foundation was created by members of the local community in response to perceived inequities in post-secondary educational access among Freeport High School graduates. The goal of the Foundation is to make significant financial contributions to a few Freeport High School students every year and provide them with meaningful community mentor experiences for the duration of their post-secondary education. Mentoring can be a meaningful resource to help guide a student through some of the complexities of a post-secondary experience. The Foundation members know that giving the gift of education to motivated young people can alter the course of their lives and create ripples of positive change throughout our community.

John Paterson, President of the Foundation said: "We are extremely pleased to make a difference in the lives of these students. And our long term goal for the Foundation is to raise \$2,000,000 so that we can extend our impact to more students. If you are interested in helping to support this effort or to learn more about the Foundation, visit our website at [www.fhsscholarships.org](http://www.fhsscholarships.org) or contact us at [info@fhsscholarships.org](mailto:info@fhsscholarships.org)."

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On the following pages are photographs of Decker and Whittier. They have given permission for the use of their photographs as part of this press release.



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Aynslie Decker



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Ellie Whittier