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Five New Bedford Seniors Awarded Jacobs Scholarships
\$175,000 Presented to NBHS, Global Charter School, GNB Voc-Tech Students

April 26, 2016 - Three New Bedford High School, one New Bedford Global Learning Charter Public School and one Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School graduating seniors have been awarded four-year scholarships to study math, science or engineering at a college or university, thanks to the **Jacobs Family New Bedford High Schools Scholarship**, a fund of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts.

City native and QUALCOMM co-founder Dr. Irwin Jacobs and his wife, Joan Klein Jacobs, flew in from their home in La Jolla, California this week to present \$175,000 in scholarships at the New Bedford Whaling Museum to **Global Learning Charter Public School senior Viriato Nunes; GNB Voc-Tech senior Jacob Aubertine; and NBHS seniors Katherine Gomes, Zachary Silva, and Victoria Vafae**. Each will receive a \$35,000 scholarship, to be distributed over four years.

The Jacobs Family New Bedford High Schools Scholarship Fund was established by the Jacobs in 2000 with a \$1 million gift to the Community Foundation (CFSEMA). In 2005, thanks to an additional \$800,000 donation by the Jacobs, the Foundation was able to increase the size and number of scholarships from two \$20,000 scholarships to three \$24,000 awards. In 2008, a fourth scholarship was added for a Global Charter School senior and each was increased to \$28,000. In 2013, the awards were increased to \$35,000 and a fifth award was added for a Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech senior.

“As college tuitions skyrocket, we are thrilled to be able to help these very accomplished students achieve their goals and dreams,” said CFSEMA Chair Seth Garfield. “We are grateful to the Jacobs for making this possible, and we join them in looking forward to great things from these very talented students.”

Shirley Zhen, who received the Jacobs scholarship in 2011, was the guest speaker. Other speakers at the April 26 presentation included Dr. and Mrs. Jacobs; CFSEMA Chair Seth Garfield and Program Officer Lauren Maher Patrick; New Bedford Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Pia Durkin and NBHS Headmaster Bernadette Coehlo; Dr. Stephen Furtado, Executive Director of the Global Charter School; James O’Brien, Superintendent-Director of GNB Voc-Tech; Mayor Jon Mitchell; and the 2016 scholarship recipients themselves.

Besides Shirley Zhen, nine other Jacobs alumni were expected to attend for the program and launch of a mentorship program between new scholarship recipients and alumni.

On the morning of the scholarship presentation, the Jacobs visited the digital Algebra 1 pilot at NBHS, made possible through a \$300,000 donation from Dr. and Mrs. Jacobs. The pilot, led by a team from the University of San Diego’s Mobile Technology Learning Center, has allowed 170 ninth graders and their teachers to access technology in school and out to improve their math literacy. The Jacobs also visited the Global Learning Charter Public School’s downtown facility.

On the morning of April 27, Dr. and Mrs. Jacobs will take a group of students from the Carlos Pacheco Elementary School, Dr. Jacobs’ alma mater, to Hanscom Air Force Base on their private jet for a tour of Boston’s historic sites and visit with an MIT professor, along with hands-on scientific activities at MIT. The jet leaves New Bedford Airport at 9:15 am.

Scholarships were awarded to the five students below:

- ✓ **Jacob Aubertine** ranks 3rd of 517 students in his class at **Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School**, and plans to major in computer engineering when he attends Northeastern University in the fall. An engineering technology major at Voc-Tech, Jacob has distinguished himself both through academics and extracurricular activities. He is a member of the National Honor Society and Dean's List, and has earned academic recognition through Renaissance Awards and the UMass Dartmouth Primes Highest GPA Award. Jacob has also been a member of the 2015 SkillsUSA Robotics and Automation Technology Competition Team, is actively involved in the Engineering Club, and participates in the College and Academic Placement (CAPLab) STEM Program at Aerovox. He also earned a spot on the 2016 Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) underwater remotely operated vehicle competition team.
- ✓ **Katherine Gomes**, who ranks 2nd in her class of 453 students at **NBHS**, will attend Worcester Polytechnic Institute to study chemical engineering so she can "make a difference around the world." Katherine wants to bring scientific advancement to countries and people who have not had access to the quality of life we experience in America. She is a member of the National Honor Society and received the AP Scholar Award, given on the national level for exceptional scores on the AP Subject Exams. Katherine is the captain and four-year member of the NBHS debate team, and was elected by fellow students to be the student rep to the New Bedford School Committee. In the community, she has served on the City of New Bedford Mayor's Youth Council since her sophomore year.
- ✓ **Viriato Nunes**, the first in his family to attend college, is graduating this spring from the **Global Learning Charter Public School**. He believes his childhood trips to Portugal have influenced his decision to major in Environmental Sciences in college; he is currently deciding which college to attend. His mother would take him during summer vacations, and he would explore the backcountry, castle ruins, and breathe pristine air. They also visited his mother's childhood home, a small stone house in which 15 siblings managed to live alongside his grandparents. They were subsistence sheep herders, living off only the harvest they could produce on their farm. Viriato believes these observances are what led to his admiration for nature. At Global, he has taken AP Environmental Science, and has been Student Council Treasurer, a Student Ambassador, and Student of the Month. As a junior, Viriato was selected for the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists Award of Excellence.
- ✓ **Zachary Silva**, who ranks 4th in the **NBHS** class, plans to attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York as an engineering major, and describes science and engineering as an "integral part of my character." Zach has been a member of the Whalers Marching/Concert Band, New Bedford High School Band Student Leader, a New Bedford High School Honor Society Parliamentarian, participated in the Honor Society tutoring program at Roosevelt Middle School, and is an AP Scholar with Honors, having taken multiple AP courses. According to his AP Chemistry teacher, "In classes as demanding as his, participation in extracurricular activities, and his personal commitment to his community, his excellent performance is a direct result of his hard work and outstanding organizational skills."
- ✓ **Victoria Vafae** is ranked first in this year's **NBHS** graduating class, and has maintained A's in 8 pre-AP classes, 9 AP classes, and every other class she has taken. She plans to attend New York University and major in biomedical engineering because she likes the challenge of solving a difficult problem and collaborating with others to solve it. Victoria has been a member of the NBHS Volleyball and Lacrosse Teams for the last four years, and has earned the Scholar Athlete Gold Award for each sport. She also has actively participated in the Key Club, the Science Club, the Debate Team, and the Student Advisory Council. For the past two years, she has been President of the National Honor Society. Victoria has worked with some of the most intelligent engineers in the country for the past three summers at the United States Navy Undersea Technology Apprenticeship Program in Newport, RI.

About the Jacobs

Dr. Irwin M. Jacobs was born in New Bedford and graduated from NBHS in June 1950. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Engineering degree from Cornell University and MS and Sc.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering from MIT. From 1959 to 1966, Dr. Jacobs was an Assistant/Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering at MIT, and from 1966 to 1972 he was a Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD).

Dr. Jacobs co-founded LINKABIT Corp. in 1968, which merged with M/A-COM in August of 1980. In 1985 he co-founded the Fortune 500 Company QUALCOMM, Inc., a world leader in 3G, 4G and next-generation wireless technologies. Dr. Jacobs led QUALCOMM through a period of rapid growth to more than 30,000 employees at 200 locations worldwide today, with international activities in digital wireless telephone and mobile satellite communications and Internet software. He was CEO through 2005, Chairman through 2009, and today serves as Founding Chairman and CEO Emeritus.

Much of Dr. and Mrs. Jacobs' philanthropy over the years has been focused on arts, culture, and education in the San Diego community, including support of the San Diego Symphony and the La Jolla Playhouse. They have been major contributors to the new San Diego Central Library, the new UCSD Jacobs Medical Center, the Jacobs School of Engineering, and, with their son Gary and his wife Jerri-Ann, the High Tech High Charter School System, now serving over 5,000 students in San Diego. They are also major supporters of the Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute at Cornell Tech in New York City, and scholarships and fellowships at Cornell, MIT, UCSD, and Technion.

Mrs. Jacobs is a New York City native who has become a leader in the San Diego community since moving to La Jolla in 1966. She has played a vital role in her contributions to the San Diego arts community, and is currently chair of the San Diego Symphony Foundation, launched in 2003 to create an endowment fund that manages monies to ensure the future of the Symphony. She also serves on the Board of the La Jolla Playhouse, is Chair of the Art Committee for the University of California-San Diego Foundation, and is Vice President of the Executive Committee for the Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego County.

In 2015, Dr. and Mrs. Jacobs were awarded the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy, established by the Carnegie Corporation of New York to honor people who emulate Andrew Carnegie, the 19th century steel magnate who donated most of his fortune to good causes.

Dr. and Mrs. Jacobs have been cited by Business Week and the Chronicle of Philanthropy as among the 50 Most-Generous Philanthropists in the United States. In August of 2010, Dr. and Mrs. Jacobs signed the "giving pledge" along with 40 other individuals and families. This effort, spearhead by Bill Gates and Warren Buffet, is a commitment from our country's wealthiest people to donate more than half of their wealth to charity.

About Shirley Zhen

Shirley Zhen graduated from the Commonwealth Honors Program at UMass Amherst in May 2015 with a bachelor's degree in Public Health Sciences and certificate in Asian American Studies. She has since been participating in a year-long service program with AmeriCorps called the Community HealthCorps. Community HealthCorps members get placed at a community health center in Greater Boston, where they learn how the center operates and how to navigate the healthcare system. Members help the medically underserved by establishing and improving utilization of health services. Shirley has been serving with the South Cove Community Health Center, which primarily caters to the Asian population. The majority of patients are Chinese and Cantonese speaking, so due to the great demand a lot of her work there includes translation.

About the Community Foundation

Since 1995, area residents have been turning to the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts to make their philanthropic giving as effective as possible. CFSEMA is a public charity serving thousands of people who share a common concern – improving the quality of life in Southeastern Massachusetts. Over the past ten years, the Community Foundation has distributed more than \$20 million from 225 funds to humanitarian, educational and cultural organizations in the region.