



## **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

For questions: NWILED @ 815-297-7361

Date: 05/15/2023

### **NWILED awards the John D. Cooke, III Memorial Entrepreneurial Scholarship**

HANOVER, IL – Beginning in 2018 Northwest Illinois Economic Development (NWILED) began offering an entrepreneurial scholarship. In 2021, the scholarship was renamed in honor and remembrance of the late John Cooke III who was a founding member of the organization. This year, NWILED was pleased to announce four scholarships across our service area.

#### **The 2023 winners of the NWILED John D. Cooke, III Memorial Entrepreneurial Scholarship are:**

Winner: Chase Dittmar – Galena High School, \$2,000

Runner Up: Jacob Furlong – Galena High School, \$1,500

Runner Up: Katie Bartch – Stockton High School, \$1,500

Honorable Mention: Zachary Pauley – Chadwick-Milledgeville High School, \$1,000.

Through the Cooke scholarship, NWILED hopes to enrich the lives of deserving students in our service area that are entrepreneurial and want to start a business or pursue a career in business. We received 10 applications this year. Our winner, Chase Dittmar, plans to attend Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa to pursue a degree in biology and environmental science. While working on his degree, Mr. Dittmar intends to advance his agritourism beekeeping business by purchasing additional beehives, filing for his LLC application, creating a label for his honey products, and growing his market presence.

Past scholarship winners have included a student connected to Hoof It Goat Treks in Galena, Three Sisters Sweet Shoppe in Elizabeth, and Davis Lumber Company in Scales Mound, in addition to a student from Savanna that proposed a sign language business, and a student from the Galena Territory who is developing a hand-crafted artisan doll line.

Photo details:

Chase Dittmar, Galena High School

For more information about NWILED visit [nwiled.org](http://nwiled.org).