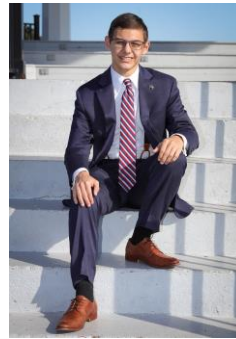


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Student School Board Representatives Awarded VSBA Exhibitors Scholarships



November 18, 2020 – Cole Cestaro (left), student at John Handley High School in Winchester City Public Schools, and Paul Diaz Karhnak (right), student at Hampton High School in Hampton City Public Schools were awarded the 2020 VSBA Exhibitors Scholarships. The scholarship, funded by exhibiting companies at the VSBA's annual convention, was made available to spring 2021 graduating seniors who had served as student school board representatives. *Ameresco* and *Schneider Electric* sponsored this year's scholarship program, which is in its eighth year.

When asked what receiving the scholarship meant to him Cestaro said, "I am very grateful to have been chosen to receive this scholarship. It brings immense pride to be recognized for my academic achievement and leadership roles within the highly-ranked Virginia public schooling system." Diaz Karhnak replied, "Receiving the VSBA Exhibitors Scholarship is a great honor and, as I believe it to be, an even greater testament to the value of putting others before oneself. One of the foremost skills I seek to apply every day in my position as Hampton's Student Representative to the School Board is proper listening—my attitude being that I because I am here to represent the concerns of each of Hampton City Schools' 20,000 students, I should make every effort to approach situations from perspectives other than my own. Listening emphasizes what another person has to say and where their standpoint is."

The scholarships were awarded earlier today at the VSBA Virtual Annual Convention which brings together school board members, superintendents, division administrators, and education officials from across the commonwealth.

About the Virginia School Boards Association

The Virginia School Boards Association, a voluntary, nonpartisan organization of Virginia school boards, promotes excellence in public education through advocacy, training and services. The Association offers conferences, information, training, and counseling designed to meet the needs of the Commonwealth's educational leaders.

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