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Walt Whitman student awarded 2019 World Language Scholarship

Potomac, MD – September 11, 2019 – The Marian Greenblatt Education Fund, the Jones Family, and the Plasma Fellows today announced that Ms. Hannah Donner, a student at Walt Whitman High School, was selected to receive the World Language Scholarship for 2019. Ms. Donner, who has studied Chinese at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, received a $1000 scholarship through the joint initiative of the Jones Family, the Plasma Fellows, and the Greenblatt Fund. Dr. Marshal Greenblatt and Dr. Walter Jones surprised Ms. Donner with the award on Thursday, September 6.

The World Language Scholarship was initiated by Dr. Walter and Mrs. Perlita Jones in 1998 to recognize outstanding student achievement in a foreign language. Since 2007, the Greenblatt Fund and the Plasma Fellows also have contributed to the effort. The $1,000 scholarship is available to a junior from any Montgomery County Public High School. The winner is selected based on recommendations from the World Language Department at his or her school and a brief essay submitted by the applicant.

Mrs. Francoise Vandenplas, Supervisor of the MCPS World Language Program, explained, “We were particularly impressed with Hannah’s commitment to learning Chinese in ways outside the traditional classroom setting. From extracurricular activities to volunteer work to studying in Nanjing, China for six weeks during the summer, her language learning experience is preparing her for the demands of our increasingly global society.”

The Plasma Fellows are former U.S. Naval Research Laboratory plasma physicists who all profited from learning world languages early in their careers and now want to honor students who are continuing along this path.

The Marian Greenblatt Education Fund is a 501c(3) non-profit organization established in 1988 to honor the memory of Dr. Marian Greenblatt, a leader in education and education policy in Montgomery County. Since its inception, the Fund has awarded more than $175,000 to outstanding teachers and students.

For more information, please visit: http://www.greenblatteducationfund.org

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