

And last, but not least, it is my honor to introduce to you today, the award winner from West Lafayette High School, Abby Martin.



Abby Jo Martin will graduate from West Lafayette High School at the end of this month, with a high GPA and excellent test scores. She will enroll at Purdue this Fall and intends to pursue a degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences while there. She then plans to attend Dental School and eventually return to this community as an orthodontist and open her own practice here.

Abby is a member of the National Honor Society and has served as a teaching assistant and as a tutor for her peers at West Side, helping others achieve the academic success which she has accomplished. She has been a member of the Spanish Club all four years of high school.

Her academics include Advanced Placement courses where she has consistently excelled. In one of her recommendation letters, her AP Biology teacher states: "Abby is a quiet, respectful and diligent student who participates meaningfully and leads by example....(she is) an extremely successful student. ...she goes above and beyond the expectations of this already rigorous course, demonstrates a great work ethic and takes initiative and responsibility for her success".

In addition to her class work, Abby has shown leadership in the area of sports. She has served as the captain of the Varsity Girls' Basketball team at West Side and as testament to her personality, has gained the respect of her team mates by winning the "Mental Attitude Award" on two different occasions.

Again, in the area of sports, Abby has reached out to help others. She has served as an assistant coach for 5th grade girls, giving of her time and talent on a regular basis.

But Abby's interests go beyond academics and sports... She helps the school's ECO Club with recycling on a weekly basis and is a member of West Side's Vista Service Club. The faculty sponsor of the ECO Club stated about Abby: "I first met Abby as a member of the ECO club which I sponsor. Anyone who will sort spoiled milk bottles for recycling in sub-zero temperatures makes a great impression on me(!)"

An additional testament to her strong desire to help others: Abby volunteers in West Lafayette High School's Special Education classroom.

In her free time, outside of school, and in addition to academic and extra-curricular activities, Abby has served our community in various roles. She has served meals at

the Homeless Shelter at LUM, she has taught Vacation Bible School for her church as a crew leader, and she has served as a representative for Tippecanoe County with RISE, that is R-I-S-E, which is an acronym for "Role Models Impacting Student Excellence". This group is a part of the Drug Free Coalition of Tippecanoe County. With this group Abby gives speeches to schools and at events when requested.

But there's more -- When asked about her favorite service activity, Abby has said that her favorite is the Family Promise Program that she has been involved with through her church. Her involvement in this program has touched her deeply. When her church hosts homeless families, Abby volunteers with her own family to bring in a meal, eat dinner with the families, and talk with and entertain their children. Abby says: "I was truly naïve to the great financial diversity in the area. Through this program my eyes have..... been opened to the extremely difficult lives of others right here in our community."

All of the activities and accomplishments mentioned here are amazing and speak to Abby's intelligence, leadership and work ethic. But equally important, if not more so, are the comments we received about Abby's character and behavior. Here's one of them: "...it is obvious that in spite of her many personal successes, she is humble, thinks of the needs of others, and seeks to be a good friend, sister, teammate and classmate. The grace with which she handles her many commitments and the way in which she builds up those around her demonstrate her maturity, character and initiative."

Now that, in addition to everything else, is something to be very proud of!

Congratulations Abby!