



Kiwanis[®]
Capital District

Dennis G. Baugh, Governor 2020-2021
"Spread the Word"

Press Release for 2020-2021 Capital District Kiwanis Teenager of the Year

From the Office of the District Governor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Capital District Kiwanis is excited to announce that Cole Cestaro has been selected as the 2020-2021 Capital District Kiwanis Teenager of the Year. Cole is a senior at John Handley High School in Winchester, Virginia and, having earned a 4.4 GPA, is the class valedictorian. He spent last summer at Harvard University and participated in the Wharton Global Youth Program. He has been a Key Club member, served 2 years as Lt. Governor and ran, unsuccessfully, for International Key Club President. Cole earned recognition as the recipient of the Robert F. Lucas Outstanding Lt. Governor Award in 2020. He was the President of DECA, FBLA, and a member of the tennis, basketball, swimming, and football team during his high school career. He served as the Chair of the Principal Advisory Committee, a group he established. Cole was chosen by the Winchester Schools Superintendent as one of two students in the district to serve as a Winchester Public School Board Student Representative.

Other recognitions include the Virginia House of Delegates Certificate of Distinction, the schools' nomination for the Harry F. Byrd, Jr. Leadership Award, DECA Stock Market Game International Finalist, and FBLA Mobile Application and Development International Finalist. All of this was achieved while serving as the chair for the Capital District Key Club Member Services Committee, working as counselor at Camp No Limits serving campers with limb-loss and limb-differences, running a lawn mowing service, and providing over 200 hours of Key Club service hours.



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The words used in his letters of recommendation were Cole is a "visionary leader", "team player", "well respected by both students and teachers", very active in a variety of community projects", "organizer", "good time manager", "shows empathy", "humble", "not easily defeated" and so much more. He recognizes his overachieving personality and says he works hard to find balance in his life. He is an amazing young man and well deserves to be honored with this award. Cole is all that is right with teens today and we can only hope, and we will expect, he will change the world...at least his part of it. Congratulations again to Cole for his accomplishments, leadership, and community spirit.

Cole and his parents will be recognized at the District Convention on August 21, 2021 in Roanoke, VA.