

## CONGRATULATIONS!

### Scholarships and Accolades Bestowed at Awards Night

Community support in the form of scholarships for our North Mason graduating seniors has never been stronger, and it's growing.

This was clearly evident at the annual Awards Night held May 16 in the North Mason High School commons. Local, clubs and individuals introduced their carefully selected student winners: the hard-working recipients of thousands of dollars in scholarship awards that will be used to further their education at a college, university, or vocational school of their choice. Members of these community organizations also work hard, voluntarily raising money all year long to fund their scholarships.

Another local organization, the North Mason Scholarship Foundation (NMSF), provides scholarship money through an endowment started by the Peter Overton family in 2000. The goal of NMSF is to provide a scholarship to every graduate from NMHS or James A. Taylor High School who wants to further their education.

Towards that goal, the NMSF was recently notified of a substantial bequest establishing the Toni M Smith Family Endowment, which will fund one or more multi-year scholarships for graduates starting with the Class of 2017.

Toni Smith was a beloved English and drama teacher who taught at NMHS for over 35 years. She passed away in 2001 and this bequest comes to our school district from Toni's mother, the late Jane Smith, in memory of her daughter. It was Jane's wish that the recipients of this scholarship fund would be selected based on "financial need, strong character and a willingness to go onto college and work hard." The NMSF board of directors is extremely pleased and appreciative of this significant donation which will provide even more post-high school opportunities for our students. More information will be released soon.

This year, the NMSF awarded \$29,500 to deserving seniors.