



With Wellesley High School's graduation ceremony just four days past, the newly-minted graduates and their families attending the Wellesley Scholarship Foundation's 66th Annual Awards Ceremony in the Katherine L. Babson Auditorium of Wellesley High School on Tuesday evening, June 5 were already focusing their attention on the next great chapters in their lives.

The festive ceremony celebrated the achievements and prospects of the 42 newest recipients of WSF college scholar-

ships. "We are here to honor all of you today," WSF President Beverly Donovan said in her opening remarks. "You have made the right decision to pursue higher education and should feel proud of this choice. Many of us here—myself included—have received scholarships from people who believed in us just as we believe in you today."

Indeed, there is good reason to honor these scholarship recipients. As well as having earned admission to colleges, these graduates have distinguished themselves in a wide array of school and community activities. A small sampling of the fields that scholarship recipients say they hope to enter includes medicine, clothing design, and global studies. Witnesses to the ceremony could not help but feel optimistic about the future having learned of the goals and drive of these young adults.

This year, the Wellesley Scholarship Foundation facilitated a total of 109 need-based college scholarships to students from Wellesley, providing a little more than \$500,000 in tuition assistance to those students and their families. WSF provided \$330,000 in funding for 81 of those scholarships; a variety of community organizations and businesses funded the rest. In addition to awarding these need-based scholarships, WSF also administers and grants two merit-only based college scholarships. This year, Carson Maconga and Taylor McClennen received those two scholarships—the Donald P. Babson Merit Award and the Margaret E. Daniels Merit Award, respectively.

WSF President Donovan reminded those assembled that "it is only through the generosity of hundreds of donors to WSF this year and in past years, as well as that of many organizations and businesses in town, that we are able to provide financial assistance."

The descriptions of scholarships awarded by WSF tells an interesting tale of the degree to which education is valued in Wellesley. Unsurprisingly, many of the college scholarships were established to honor the memories of beloved parents, children, teachers, coaches, even fallen Wellesley police officers. Both those for whom the scholarships are named and those who chose to honor them clearly believed a college education matters and should be made available to hard-working students. In some cases, scholarship donors either had not had a college edu-

cation themselves or would not have had one were it not for the generosity of a scholarship benefactor. For those people, establishing a need-based college scholarship when they had the means to do so appears to have been a clear choice.

Other scholarships awarded at the ceremony were established by community service organizations or by Wellesley businesses that wanted to give back to the community in some significant and meaningful way. Their contributions to WSF reflect their beliefs that the people of Wellesley value highly the availability of need-based college scholarships.

“Students, we wish you the best in all your endeavors. We hope (the process of applying for these scholarships) has empowered you in many ways, beyond just giving you financial support,” said WSF President Donovan at the ceremony’s conclusion. “You have a special community rooting for you.”