

The Plumbing Industry Promotion Fund of New York City held an awards ceremony for 10 recipients of its 2008 Scholarships. Each student was awarded an annual \$2,000 scholarship which would total \$80,000 each year, to help defray their higher education over the next four years.

Last year the scholarships were renamed the "Leonard X. Farbman" Scholarship in honor of Mr. Farbman who served as President of the Association of Contracting Plumbers of the City of New York, Inc. in 1962-63-64 and still takes an active interest in the Industry today.

The Plumbing Industry Promotion Fund of New York City has been awarding scholarships for 27 years. To date, the Promotion Fund has given almost \$850,000 to more than 400 students. Participants in the Scholarship Program may attend any accredited college, university or approved technical institution in the United States and may select any course of study.

Ralph J. DeMartino, Chairman of the Promotion Fund Board of Trustees, said, "America's families are under increasing economic pressure due to exploding college costs. Tuition increases are outpacing the rate of inflation, forcing students to 'trade down' their educational choices because once-affordable options have been priced out of reach. Our goal is to ease that burden and make higher education more affordable."

This year's selection committee consisted of three distinguished educators from the field of higher education who had to choose from over 40 applicants based upon high school grades, standardized test scores and extra curricular activities.



(Top row l to r: Ralph DeMartino- Chair- Promotion Fund, Katrina Toal, Vincent Aspromonte- President ACP, Gabriella Abballe & Eric Raguzin. Front row l to r: Donald Doherty- Business Agent at-large Plumbers Union Local 1, Dana Trani, Benjamin Malec, Michelle Minoux, Amanda Salera, Nicole Ruckel, & Meghna Patel)

One of the scholarship recipients, **Amanda Salera**, is heading to Quinnipiac University where she is planning on studying Physical Therapy. "I am extremely grateful to the Promotion Fund for this scholarship - it will help pay for some of the costs of my education.

The other 2008 winners are Katrina Toal (Brown University), Eric Raguzin (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), Meghna Patel (Northeastern University), Benjamin Malec (Columbia University), Gabriella Abballe (Fairfield University), Michelle Minoux (SUNY Binghamton), Nicole Ruckel (St. John's University), Dana Trani (Pace University) and Jonathan Kaufman (Harvard University) who unfortunately could not attend the award banquet.

To qualify for a scholarship, a student must be the son or daughter of a journeyman, apprentice, or helper plumber whose parent is a member of the union or a licensed employing master plumber who is a union contractor or an officer of such plumbing firm. To obtain an application for the 2009 Scholarships and to learn more about who is eligible, please visit www.acpcny.org.

The Plumbing Industry Promotion Fund of New York City serves as the educational and informational arm of the plumbing industry and is funded entirely by plumbing contracting firms employing union labor.