



## Scholarships Presented to 2014 Recipients

September 5, 2014

This year four young people from our community were awarded scholarships totaling \$7,000 from the Metrolina Phoenician Club. Christine Yateem and Justina Sedhom received \$2,000 each, while Andrew Karam and Laila Itani both received \$1,500. Additionally, they received a combined total of \$3,000 in scholarships from the Southern Federation of Syrian Lebanese American Clubs, an umbrella organization that we proudly belong to. Both scholarships are given to help young club members achieve their academic goals.

An Award Ceremony was held on September 5 at the home of President Lamia Hanna, at which the four recipients were presented with certificates in recognition of their achievements. The scholarship money will be sent directly to the academic institutions. Christine and Andrew are currently enrolled as freshmen at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Laila is attending Central Piedmont Community College, and Justina is at the University of South Carolina.

The Phoenician Club's scholarship program was introduced in 2007 by Mr. & Mrs. Tony Bikhazi, who have pledged \$2,000 annually to support young people in the community who are club members. In 2012, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Saleh increased the annual funding to \$4,000 with a pledge of \$2,000 per annum. This year, another generous contribution of \$3,000 was made by Mr. & Mrs. Milad Hanna, enabling the club to provide \$7,000 in scholarships for 2014.

The scholarship sponsors attended the Award Ceremony to extend their best wishes to the recipients. The Scholarship Committee who reviewed the applications were independent of the sponsors. The committee was made up of Vice President Azad Khuri and board members Kelly Brais, Rolana Sban and Natasha Beathe. Mrs. Khuri opened the ceremony with an inspiring speech about the importance of an education. "You may lose a lot of things in your life, but no one can take away your education," she said.

Learn more about the Metrolina Phoenician Club scholarships <http://phoenicianclub.org/scholarship.html> and about the Southern Federation's scholarships at [www.sflac.org](http://www.sflac.org).