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# Congressional Award

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## SENATOR MENENDEZ & REPRESENTATIVE GOTTHEIMER HOST NEW JERSEY CEREMONY

On Saturday, June 3, 2017, **U.S. Senator Bob Menendez** and **U.S. Representative Josh Gottheimer** (NJ-05) honored twelve recipients with The Congressional Award at the 2017 New Jersey Statewide Ceremony. The annual event took place at **Bergen Community College’s Ciccone Theatre** in Paramus, New Jersey.

Community leaders in both the private and public sectors joined parents, friends, and mentors to celebrate the achievements of the inspiring young leaders.

**Brian Thompson of NBC 4 New York** offered his talents as the Master of Ceremonies and **Boy Scouts of America Troop 90 9F** (Elmwood Park) presented the colors. **Chaplain Gary Holden** of the Police Chaplain Program provided an eloquent invocation and **Dr. Ursula Daniels** of Bergen Community College welcomed guests to the campus.



While addressing the Medalists in his keynote speech, **Congressman Gottheimer** stated, *“I’m incredibly proud of the students receiving Congressional Awards. They embody New Jersey values; they are smart, strong, and dedicated in their service to their communities and families.”*

**Senator Menendez** echoed the first term Congressman’s sentiment by adding, *“Each of today’s honorees have challenged themselves to grow – mentally, physically, culturally, and personally. No two of their journeys have been exactly alike, yet each has earned the recognition of the United States Congress.”*

**Celgene Corporation** once again served as the event sponsor, reaffirming their commitment to youth development in the Garden State. **Rich Bagger**, Executive Vice President of Corporate Affairs and Market Access, issued a statement after the ceremony.

*“Celgene has been honored to sponsor The Congressional Award in New Jersey, and we are proud of the young men and women in New Jersey who have worked so hard to receive these awards. The countless hours of public service that have been performed not only benefit the community and deserving organizations, but also contribute to the personal development of the award winners. We want to thank Congressman Gottheimer, Senator Menendez, and the entire New Jersey Congressional Delegation for their work and leadership of this great program.”*

The ceremony recognized youth that have earned The Congressional Award in the past year.

#### **GOLD MEDALISTS**

Funda Akilli  
Felicia Aschettino  
Philip Ballas  
Satchel Bell  
Elena Boal  
Alexander Brescia  
Alexander Bruman  
Nicholas Coleburn  
David Crain  
Paige Crain  
Michael Doliszny  
Elizabeth Emberger  
Dominic Esposito  
Lindsay Fogel  
Madison Gandy  
Maura Herbertson  
Andrew Laberee  
Christopher Lauria  
Mitchell Lauria  
Amaya Liles  
Marta Majewski  
Laura Mondadori  
Ryan Murphy  
Alexis Oliver  
Amanda Olivio  
Khushbu Patel  
Urvi Patel  
Vaed Prasad  
Maya Ravichandran  
Shannon Renshaw  
Thiago Santos  
Nishi Shah  
Madilyn Somers  
Trevor Somers  
Andrew Sooy  
Richard Stelfox

Anthony Uzzolina  
Alexis Vanaman  
Priya Vulchi  
Olivia Weldon  
Allison Wetherell  
David Wu  
Erica Wu

#### **SILVER MEDALISTS**

Gabriella Alicea  
Megan Arneman  
Nishay Bhatnagar  
Alexandra Buccine  
Meghan Burkey  
Edward Davis  
Jessica Fritz  
Chanel Gist  
Shayan Gupta  
Gayatri Iyengar  
Samantha Kossey  
Shannon Leahy  
Jingyuan Lu  
Raelynne Miller  
Sung Hyun Mo  
Wesley Musto  
Bridget O'Hara  
Isla Okkinga  
Anthony Olivio  
Zoe Pan  
Richard Rivera  
Gabrielle Sirolli  
Nikhil Sobti

#### **BRONZE**

#### **MEDALISTS**

Samantha Alfonse  
Zachary Asselta

Adrian Azan  
Elise Ballan  
Alexia Bartleson  
Amanda Bates  
Andre Biehl  
Christopher Carr  
Christopher Child  
Stanley Clark  
Mackenzie Collison  
Matthew Conlan  
Robert Cuff  
Jasmine Davis  
Trisha Dehrone  
Bryan Delendik Jr.  
Tyler DiCarlo  
Alyssa Donadio  
Ryan Ellam  
Jerrod Fletcher  
Jessica Flynn  
Joshua Geldreich  
Daniel Grinthal  
Andrew Hickman  
Eliza Hunt  
Muhammed Keskin  
Emily Kimmelman  
Alexandra Kukal  
Jueun Kwon  
Katherine  
Lacouture  
Keemin Lee  
David Liu  
Dina Manco  
Stephanie Martin  
Julianne Matassa  
Taylor Matey  
Malvika Narayan  
Nicole Ottens

Esha Patel  
Jacob Pirogovsky  
Chelsea Plog  
Riley Plosica  
Krishant Putrevu  
Siena Rampulla  
Colleen Renshaw  
Kristen Sahl  
Terrence Shi  
Andrea Shlesinger  
Megan Sooy  
Nolan Stewart  
Carly Thompson  
Iziah Thompson  
Grace Thornton  
**Chandrasheker-  
Tiruchirapalli-  
Venkatramani**  
Michael Trull  
Ronald Tsung  
Alexander Wills  
Richard Wills  
Katherine Yasser  
Jennifer Zaplitny

#### **CERTIFICATES**

Bhavesh Agrawal  
Alison Cabrera  
Woo-Young Cho  
Brian Green  
Shane Jones  
Sophia Lidestri  
Emily Mundy  
Elizabeth Ritchie  
Emilie Weiner

#### **ABOUT**

Congress established The Congressional Award in 1979 to recognize initiative, service, and achievement in young people. The program is open to all youth ages 14-23 and participants earn Bronze, Silver, and Gold Congressional Award Certificates and Bronze, Silver, and Gold Congressional Award Medals. Each level involves setting goals in four program areas: Voluntary Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness, and Expedition/Exploration. Learn more at [www.congressionalaward.org](http://www.congressionalaward.org).

#### **THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD IN NEW JERSEY**

New Jersey remains one of the most active states in The Congressional Award's national portfolio, ranking within the top ten states in both the number of enrolled participants and number of awards earned. The Garden State has produced **5,969 awardees all-time**. There are currently **2,798 participants** pursuing the award. In the past year, Congressional Award participants in New Jersey have logged **60,142 hours of voluntary public service** in their communities.

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