

Ithaca school advocates present awards

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The Ithaca Public Education Initiative recently awarded more than \$6,000 in grants and awards to district students, staff and programs.

The New Teacher Award of \$200 was given to television production teacher Steven Cass, along with a gift of \$150 to the high school library in Cass' honor. The Student Organization Award of \$300 went to The Tattler. Library aide Joaquin Lira received the Staff Member Award of \$200, and a gift of \$150 went to the high school library in Lira's honor.

The recipients were selected by ballot by Ithaca High School seniors, and the awards were presented during the Senior Awards Convocation by Kaponu Liu and Oseoba Airewele, president and vice president, respectively, of the Class of 2014.

Seniors Michael Stern and Archer Cowen each received the Carol Jean Buckley Scholarship for Students in the Arts, a \$1,500 award.

Senior Brian Okumu received the Noreen Moore Memorial Award at a June 5 IHS awards presentation. The \$400 scholarship goes to a senior who has the potential to make the world a better place.

At a June 3 awards ceremony for underclassmen, junior Julian Korfine received the Raymond C. Loehr Environmental Science Scholarship Award. The \$150 award recognizes an underclass student who shows promise in environmental science.

Other awards include the Ian Alberta Fund, which provides fifth-grade students throughout the district with books that complement the Kids Discover the Trail program. The \$1,000 Phyllis B. Brodhead Library Media Technology Fund award will be used to purchase digital audio books that allow challenged readers to listen to a book professionally read aloud while following the text. The digital books will be housed at the Boynton Middle School library.