

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • May 7, 2021

Shaylee Bragdon, a senior in Health Science, agreed last year to help Nurse Mindy Frejkowski with the school's blood drives. As she prepares for her final blood drive today, she said the experience helped her be more organized and "more of a leader."



Her assessment was echoed by Mindy and English teacher Katie Hewitt in their nominations of Shaylee, selected as the 2021 Student of the Year.

"The role of blood drive leadership was important to Shaylee," Mindy wrote, citing Shaylee's desire to help future blood drives by critiquing how the process worked each time.

Shaylee, whose home school is Unioto, also has been on Student Council, serving as vice president her senior year, and is an active member of SkillsUSA. Katie wrote in her nomination:

"Shaylee has demonstrated positive qualities in my classroom both as a student and a member of council. As a student she is engaged and takes responsibility for her own work. She has shown enthusiasm and initiative in her event planning and community service ideas. She has taken on leadership roles and represents Pickaway-Ross well in the community."

Shaylee, who is performing clinicals and working at Westmoreland Place, plans to study nursing to become a forensic nurse.

While Shaylee is this year's Student of the Year, the selection committee had to choose among Shaylee, Emily Lott and Hunter Rowland.

"It was a difficult decision for the selection committee because every candidate reflected the qualities we want to see in our Student of the Year," said Jason Vesey, director of Secondary Education.

Cosmetology instructor Donna Patrick highlighted Emily's leadership, service and her dedication to her schoolwork.

"She was the second student to finish the program hours in spite of the pandemic, while also interning in a salon."

Emily, whose home school is Unioto, also plans



Shaylee Bragdon, right, was presented with a scholarship from Katy Wolfe of Versity for Shaylee's work this year organizing the school's blood drives. At left is Nurse Mindy Frejkowski, one of the staff members who nominated Shaylee for Student of the Year.

to study nursing.

Engineering instructor Mark Johnston said Hunter was the top leader in class, regularly taking charge of projects.

"He takes initiative to enlist other students from other labs and projects to work together," Mark wrote, calling him a No. 1 cheerleader for career and technical education.

Hunter, whose home school is Westfall, is on job placement at DHL working as a forklift operator. He plans to continue his career there after high school.

Hunter said his understanding of mechanical solutions and how things work, which he gained in lab, has benefitted him on the job.

"I also appreciate Mr. Johnston teaching me the importance of a good work ethic and job skills."

It is an honor to have such fine students representing Pickaway-Ross.

Dennis Franks is superintendent of Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center. He can be reached at dennis.franks@pickawayross.com.



The other Student of the Year nominees were Emily Lott (Cosmetology) and Hunter Rowland (Engineering).