THREE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO RESIDE AT THE BMHA'S FERRY-GRIDER HOMES RECEIVE FINANCIAL AWARDS FOR THEIR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

THE CASH AWARDS, TOTALING $1600, WERE DONATED BY EAST TENNESSEE MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH DESMOND OLIVER, A FORMER FERRY-GRIDER RESIDENT

Buffalo, NY – For a second year, East Tennessee Men's Basketball Head Coach Desmond Oliver has given back to the community where he was raised by presenting awards to three Ferry-Grider high schoolers to celebrate their academic achievements.

The Brenda Oliver awards, named for Oliver's late mother, a long-time Ferry-Grider resident, were presented by the coach to J'Vonna Glen Doris Jones, Naomy Denisse Gonzalez Roman, and Avonte Dequan Scott, on September 19.

"Building on last year's success, and the tremendous response, I am very pleased to return in 2022 to reward Buffalo's up and coming students," Oliver said. "Growing up at Ferry-Grider, and then finding success in my current career, prompted me to give back. I believe this small gesture inspires students to strive to succeed in school now, increasing their chances to succeed in the future."

"I congratulate the winners of this year's Brenda Oliver Awards and thank Coach Oliver for his generosity in giving back to the Ferry-Grider community," BMHA Executive Director Gillian Brown said.

Jones, a junior at South Park H.S., received the top award of $800, for her 99.1 grade point average (GPA) in the 2021-22 year. Jones was also last year's winner.

Roman received $500 for obtaining a 97.6 GPA as an 8th grader at West Hertel Academy last school year. Scott received a $300 prize for his 94.9 GPA as an 8th grader at Charles R. Drew Science Magnet School.

Ferry-Grider households with students in or entering high school, were asked to submit their youngster's reports cards following the end of the 2021-22 school year for the second consecutive year, to enter the GPA competition.

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