



For Immediate Release (June 16, 2011):

****DIGITAL COLOR IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST****

Contact: Christine Crawfis
Director of Marketing & Communications
New Paltz Regional Chamber of Commerce
257 Main Street, New Paltz, NY 12561
(845) 255-0243
christine@newpaltzchamber.org
www.newpaltzchamber.org

Regional Chamber of Commerce Foundation at New Paltz Presents 2011 Scholarships and Special Merit Award at New Paltz Regional Chamber of Commerce June Business Luncheon

(New Paltz, NY) The **Regional Chamber of Commerce Foundation at New Paltz (RCCFNP)** proudly presented two **\$1,000 Educational Scholarships** to **Sarah Armour** of Gardiner, NY and **Suvadip Choudhury** of Fishkill, NY, and a **\$500 Special Merit Award** to **Brittany Alessi** of New Paltz, NY. The awards were presented at the **New Paltz Regional Chamber of Commerce June Business Luncheon (NPRCoC)** on Wednesday, June 15, 2011 at the **Terrace Restaruant, SUNY New Paltz**, sponsored by **Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corp.** The event also featured a fascinating presentation exploring the relationship between academic and experiential learning by Internship Coordinator **Beth King** of the **SUNY New Paltz Career Resource Center**.

2011 Scholarship winner **Sarah Armour** completed her Associates Degree in environmental science at **SUNY Ulster** this May. She has been employed for the last two years as the Farming teacher at NPRCoC member **Mountain Laurel Waldorf School**, teaching organic and sustainable agriculture, and through her involvement with the Sloop Clearwater has educated young people about the Hudson River ecosystem. A trip to Brazil this past January opened Sarah's eyes to global environmental issues, when she saw first hand the devastation faced by Amazonian rain forests. This fall, Sarah will attend the Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Science to study the Science of Natural Environmental Systems.

2011 Scholoarship winner **Suvadip Choudhury** will graduate from John Jay High School this month. As part of the Hugh O'Brian Leadership Seminar, Suvadip completed 100 volunteer hours, including working at Wingate Nursing Home, organizing math carnivals, judging the WCSD Science Fair, running in two "Relay-For-Lives" and participating in a Walk-A-Thon to help build a school in Uganda. As National Honor Society President, Suvadip organized the holiday adoption of a local family, helped collect funds and supplies for Japan, planned the St. Jude Rally and participated in the annual Crop Walk for breast cancer. This fall, Suvadip will attend the University of Pennsylvania, where his interest in cognition and perception combined with an interest in marketing may lead him to pursue a degree in consumer psychology. Suvadip's mother, Saswati Choudhury, is employed by NPRCoC member **Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union**.

(more)

Regional Chamber of Commerce Foundation at New Paltz Scholarship Awards
Page 2 of 2

2011 Special Merit Award winner **Brittany Alessi** will graduate this month from New Paltz High School. In her Junior year, she enrolled in the BOCES Cosmetology program, and upon graduation will take the certification exam to become a licensed cosmetologist. Through her years of volunteer work at a local not-for-profit animal sanctuary, Brittany discovered a love of animals and a drive to become a veterinarian. She hopes to one day own her veterinary practice in order to help heal animals the way they helped heal her. She will attend **SUNY Ulster** this fall, where she will pursue an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Veterinary Technology, after which she plans to enroll in the pre-med program at SUNY Canton. Brittany's mother, Darlene Alessi, is employed by NPRCoC member **SUNY New Paltz**.

June business luncheon sponsor and NPRCoC 2011 Leading Partner **Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation** is a regulated transmission and distribution utility serving approximately 370,000 customers in eight counties of New York State's Mid-Hudson River Valley, and delivering natural gas and electricity in a 2,600-square-mile service territory that extends from the suburbs of metropolitan New York City north to the Capital District at Albany. Central Hudson is a subsidiary of CH Energy Group.

The New Paltz Regional Chamber of Commerce, with more than 600 members, is an active and trusted voice in the regional business and residential community, advancing the business, industrial, agricultural and civic interests of the Mid-Hudson Valley Region. Programs and services of the Chamber are made possible, in part, by the support of its Corporate Partners for 2011: **Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp.** (Leading Partner); **Brinckerhoff and Neuville Insurance Group** (Associate Partner); **Health Quest**, **Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union**, **KIC Chemicals**, **The Law Offices of James Yastion, PLLC**, **M&T Bank**, **Ulster Savings** and **Vanacore, DeBenedictus, DiGiovanni and Weddell LLP, CPAs** (Supporting Partners).

Members and visitors are welcome at the Chamber's Visitor Center, located at 257 Main Street in New Paltz. For more information about Chamber programs and Visitor's Center hours of operation, visit www.newpaltzchamber.org or call the Chamber at (845) 255-0243.

###