

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Citizens Coalition award recognizing student achievements for environmental awareness, quality of life adds Sussex Tech seniors

The Board of Directors of Citizens Coalition, Inc. a community watchdog organization supporting managed growth, sustainable development and responsible land use in Sussex County, will open its second Student Recognition Program for high school seniors this fall. In addition to being offered to at Cape Henlopen High School seniors. The program has been expanded to include seniors at Sussex Tech. The Coalition's "Environmental Awareness and Quality of Life Award," offers a \$500 United States savings bond for a range of community activities that support the Coalition's efforts in the county.

According to Mike Tyler, Coalition president, "Many students are concerned with the environment as well as how development is forever changing the local landscape and their quality of life. We feel that it is important to honor a student who has shown concern for the environment and the quality of life here and has made a positive contribution toward that concern." According to Tyler, the board voted this summer to include Sussex Tech seniors. The first Environmental Awareness and Quality of Life scholarship was awarded to Cape senior Katelyn Vincent for her volunteer efforts to promote safety to seasonal student cyclists.

The award asks "What have you done for your community?" and suggests several topics.

- o Began or sustained a recycling program
- o Wrote letters to local newspapers about environmental issues
- o Initiated projects or events to promote energy conservation
- o Participated in road, park or path cleanup
- o Worked to protect wetlands or ponds in your community
- o Got involved in a renewable, clean energy program

Citizens Coalition board members believe that the future of our environment shouldn't just be the concern of adults in the community and that the award program is a way to promote and recognize concern on the part of community active students. Seniors at Cape Henlopen and Sussex Tech applying for the award must also prepare an essay of 250 words to explain their concern and describe their efforts including identifying the event or project, the student's role and any other pertinent information, he said.

Applications for the Environmental Awareness and Quality of Life Award are available at the schools or at www.citizenscoalition.net/. Submit questions about the program on line to award@citizenscoalition.net.

Submissions should be mailed to Citizens Coalition Award Program, PO Box 56, Nassau, DE 19969. They must be postmarked by May 1, 2009.