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Seven local students graduate from Gatton Academy

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Seven local students were among 90 from across the state to graduate with the Class of 2023 from The Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green.

Submitted

The Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science graduated 90 students, including seven from either Hardin or LaRue counties, from across Kentucky in its 16th graduating class.

The ceremony took place Saturday at Western Kentucky University's Van Meter Hall and was broadcast online for extended friends and family to enjoy.

Among the 90 students from across the commonwealth making up the graduating class of 2023 are:

- Gabe Edward Fortier, LaRue County High School, LaRue County
- Hadley Hagan Jones, Central Hardin High School, Hardin County

Diego Moreno, Elizabethtown High School, Hardin County

Gabriel Ayden Nowaskie, Bardstown High School, Hardin County

Neel Patel, LaRue County High School, LaRue County

- Jonathon Patrick Reilly, Central Hardin High School, Hardin County

Ellen Patricia Segó, Central Hardin High School, Hardin County

- Students with an were recognized as Community Scholars. These graduates completed two semesters of research with a research outcome that is presented to a professional audience after being accepted through a vetted process or four semesters of participation in STEM+, and documenting 60 hours of service.

After welcoming everyone to the ceremony and acknowledging those instrumental in supporting the students, Dr. Lynette Breedlove, director of The Gatton Academy, reflected on the history of Gatton and the current students' success.

"The students of The Gatton Academy have built upon the initial foundation and have excelled in their endeavors both in and out of the classroom," she said. "They have continued to establish the path that countless classes will follow. They will leave today as ambassadors for The Gatton Academy while growing as innovators for this great commonwealth."

The Class of 2023 represents 45 counties from across the state and includes The Gatton Academy's 1,000th graduate. Fifteen members of the class were National Merit semifinalists and 77% of graduates participated in faculty-sponsored research during their Gatton Academy experience.

Additionally, 19 graduates completed the STEM + Critical Languages sequences in either Arabic, Mandarin Chinese or Russian. Among the graduates are two students who advanced to the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) and a Regeneron Science Talent Search Top 300 Teen Scientist.

Graduates won U.S. Department of State National Security Language Initiative for Youth scholarships, and one was named YMCA Greater Louisville's Youth Achiever of the Year. These seniors completed 3,759 hours of community service over two years, an average of 41.8 hours per graduate.

Educators from around the Commonwealth were nominated by members of the Class of 2023 who have played an important role in their journey to Gatton. Thirty-two educators were invited to attend the ceremony, acknowledged during the ceremony, and will receive certificates of excellence for their dedication to the success of young people in Kentucky.