

## Area students graduate from Gatton Academy

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Four Hardin County residents now can say they are graduates of Gatton Academy on the Western Kentucky University campus in Bowling Green.

Catherine Appelman of Elizabethtown High School, Amara Danturthi and Patrick O'Boyle of John Hardin High School and Christopher Nathaniel Smith of North Hardin Christian School graduated Saturday afternoon.

The four were among 87 students representing 43 counties from across the state who were recognized during The Gatton Academy's 13th graduation ceremony.

The ceremony took place in Diddle Arena, where masks were required and attending graduates and families were strategically and widely spaced to adhere to social-distancing guidelines, according to an academy news release. The graduation ceremony was simultaneously webcast to honor all graduates and include those who chose not to attend in person.

Appelman, Danturthi and O'Boyle were honored as Gatton Community Scholars, meaning they completed two semesters of research with a research outcome that was presented to a professional audience after being accepted through a vetted process or they finished four semesters of study in STEM + Critical Language pathway, and had 60 hours of documented service, according to the release.

Gatton Academy Director Dr. Lynette Breedlove praised the graduates for their persistence.

"The Gatton Academy Class of 2020 has experienced a senior year like no other. And yet the students have persevered and persisted," she said. "While at Gatton they traveled internationally, pursued their interests through research, volunteered in many different communities, and build life-long friendships. When they were forced to return home to finish

their last semester, they found ways to continue to learn and contribute to their communities. I am incredibly proud of these students and know they are well on their way to pursuing their infinite possibilities.”