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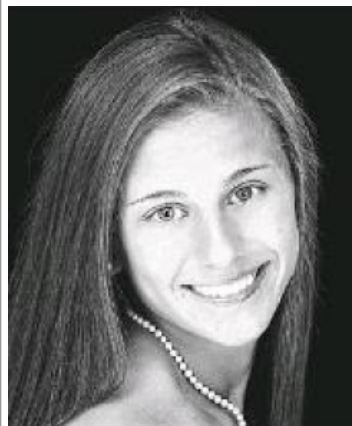
Scholastic Superstars: Meet Sophia Parola ...

KYLE WIND

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Sophia Parola

Twenty-five students were chosen by judges from local colleges and universities to represent the best and brightest of NEPA’s graduating classes as part of The Times-Tribune’s annual Scholastic Superstar program.

Meet Sophia Parola ...

School: North Pocono High School

Parents: Bruce and Christine Parola

Plans: to study industrial engineering and finance at Lehigh University

Sophia Parola thinks a lot about the future.

The North Pocono High School senior is chairwoman of Moscow Borough Council’s committee of youths whose job is to report back on what would make young people want to live in the borough when they are older.

The feedback is an important part of council’s next long-range plan, which will be important to council’s strategy to improve Moscow over the next decade or longer.

The civic-minded student also has been part of groups like Students Against Destructive Decisions and Friends of Rachel. A mentor to young children for the high school’s Big Brothers Big Sisters style program, she also tutors elementary students.

“I really like being able to help people in a way that helps the community in the future,” Sophia said. “Teaching children helps them grow up to be the next group of teachers themselves. I feel like I’m helping prepare them to be the future of the country.”

After graduation, Sophia wants to be part of an industry that continually shapes the world for years to come.

She plans to study industrial engineering and finance at Lehigh University with an eye toward someday taking a leadership job in the industry, advising firms on how to structure their operations more efficiently.

Her ideal job would challenge her, allow her to live in Moscow and require her to travel all over the world.

At North Pocono, the 4.15 grade point average student excelled academically, took on numerous Advanced Placement classes, served as a class officer and was a member of varsity soccer, track and field teams. She likes to ski and sew in her spare time.

She is proud, she said, “of the way I found the time to do everything I wanted to do in high school from the field to the classroom and everywhere in between.”

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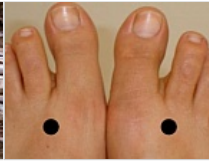
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