

# The Arab American News

## Group golfs for scholarships

By Natasha Dado

Friday, 07.10.2009, 04:53pm

**WEST BLOOMFIELD** — The Arab American and Chaldean Council (ACC) presented its 7th annual golf outing and scholarship award dinner at the Shenandoah Country Club on Wednesday.



The event raised funds for scholarships that went to deserving high school students who excel in academics but are in need of financial support for college.

"We hold this event so the youth can accelerate in life. This helps them move in the right direction. We are for the youth and continuing their education," said Haifa Fakhouri, ACC president and CEO.

ACC scholarship recipients after receiving their awards Wednesday.

Lou Anna K Simon, president of Michigan State University and General Barry R. McCaffrey, chairman of the board of directors for Global Linguist Solutions, served as honorary chairpersons for the event.

"We want these scholarship recipients to gain public recognition. We are going to hold them up as an example. They are hope for the future. They're the best young people in after hour programs like ACC's Seven Mile program. In some 20 years, these kids will grow up to become huge community leaders like mayors. It's about time we see Arabs visible and gaining recognition in work places like the CIA," McCaffrey said.



The CIA was a major sponsor of the event.

Recipients of the scholarships included Randa Abdullah, Amira Abi-Haidar, Amir Alawneh, Jessica Ayoub, Mohamad Chbib, Tevon Conrad, Zein El-Zein, Hala Hachem, Rina Sadik, Vanessa Shaya, and Jaleesa Wrench.

All of the recipients graduated with a 4.0 or higher.

"It feels good to win the scholarship. That money is really going to help," Rina Sadik said.

From left: ACC board member Awni Fakhoury, ACC President Haifa Fakhoury, ACC board member Salman Sesi and Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano.

PHOTO: Natasha Dado/TAAN

ACC board member Salman Sesi said that in addition to the help students receive from the annual event, it raises awareness of the social services ACC offers the public.

"The event is important because, number one, it exposes the ACC service to the public. It keeps the activities and council alive and well exposed to the general public," he said.