



KELEENA BRESETT/IMAGES PROVIDED

Untitled work by Keleena Bresett, an illustration student at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

A *passion* for art pays off

Local Keleena Bresett, first post-COVID recipient of JEMS scholarship

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JAV — Keleena Bresett, an illustration student at the Rochester Institute of Technology, is the 21st recipient of the 2025 Carlos H. Straight Memorial Scholarship, a \$1,000 prize recently awarded by the Jay Entertainment and Music Society.



Keleena Bresett

“It’s been wonderful. It’s a huge help for me, and I’m so glad that I was able to be a recipient of it. I’m just so glad that I was able to receive it after nobody receiving it after so long because of COVID,” the 18-year-old daughter of Scott and Kelly Bresett, of Keeseville, said.

Keleena applied for the scholarship last spring while a senior at AuSable Valley High School.

“I heard about it through school,” she said. “Oh, it was a pretty simple application process. They give you a provided form that you fill out, and then you meet all the requirements on there whether that be writing an essay or submitting any other thing that they wanted basically. I know that I had submitted a long list of all the activities that I did with the arts.”

Keleena rocked her first college term, completing drawing and design coursework within her major with outstanding academic results. She is also very involved in multiple artistic and musical outlets.

On the musical side, she plays trumpet in the RIT Wind Symphony as well as a small jazz combo group. She enjoys being able to play with such a large number of talented individuals, according to a press release.

Keleena started played trumpet in the fifth grade.

“So it’s been a while. It’s kind of a family thing. My dad played it,” she said. “I actually play the trumpet that he used in high school. Both of my uncles have also played trumpet, and my cousin Matt also plays trumpet. So it’s, like, kind of a family instrument.”

In addition, Keleena participates in the RIT dance company, Vis Viva, where she is a member of the musical theater company dance group. She is very happy with being able to pursue such diverse, artistic interests and excited to experience more performing and visual arts groups, according to a press release.

“Last semester, I was a part of the mu-



Untitled drawing by Keleena Bresett

SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

The Carlos H. Straight Memorial Scholarship is designed to support a student pursuing an education in the trades or the arts, or who plans to make significant contributions to the arts in their community. Applicants must:

- Be a graduating high school senior at AuSable Valley Central School.
- Plan to pursue a degree, certification or apprenticeship in a trade, such as carpentry, plumbing, welding, etc.; plan to pursue a degree in the arts, such as visual arts, performing arts, creative writing, music, etc.; or demonstrates a commitment to community arts through volunteerism, leadership or active participation.
- Have a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. The scholarship check will be issued after the student provides proof of maintaining a GPA of 3.0 or above.
- Have one letter of recommendation from a teacher, mentor or community leader.
- Prove enrollment or intent to enroll in a qualifying program, such as an acceptance letter or registration confirmation.

Students must also have completed the scholarship application form and written a personal statement describing their passion for the trades or arts, goals for education or community involvement, and how this scholarship will support their aspirations.

Preference may be given to students who can demonstrate financial need or a significant track record of community involvement.

For more information about JEMS and the Carlos H. Straight Memorial Scholarship, visit jemsgroup.org or find them on Facebook and Instagram.

sical theater. So, like, in this big group, I think you could call it, there are smaller classes that you split up into to do the different types of dance,” she said.

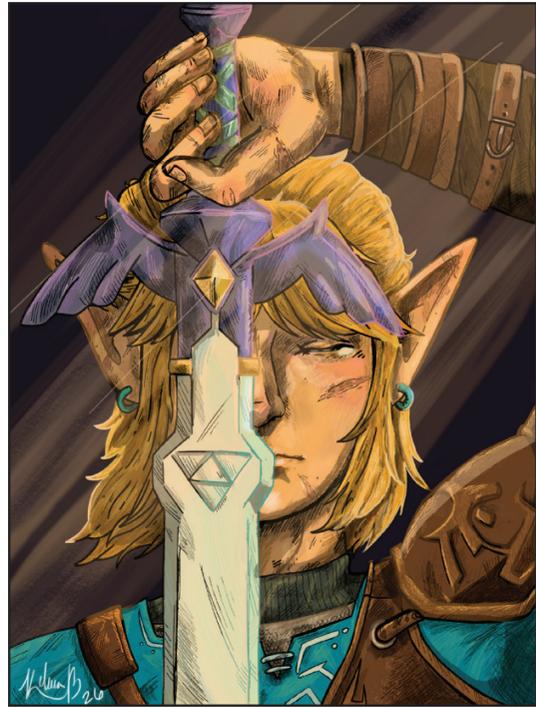
“Last semester, I participated in the musical theater group, and this semester I’m participating in musical theater as well as a heel-dance group. So you dance in heels.”

Keleena has now met the final scholarship qualification, which calls for completing a successful first term of the academic or trades program of her choice, according to a press release.

“I had no issues with it. It was a school

that I’d connected with about two summers ago,” she said. “I attended a character design course here where I was able to stay on campus and eat here and attend a course with one of the professors, Alesha Williams.

“I stayed here for that week, and it really allowed me to see the campus and experienced it and meet people and just feel the vibes and energy of the campus. Since then, I always knew that was a place that I really liked and enjoyed. and once I got accepted and they gave me certain scholarships, it just really solidified for me that I wanted to go here.”



TOP: Untitled work by Keleena Bresett. BOTTOM: Chalk drawing by Keleena Bresett.