

It is now my honor to move to the last award of the evening, and I invite everybody to stay to hear about a very special student, the Charles H. Rideout Award winner, for academic excellence. Charles H. Rideout was an assistant principal at Walter Johnson High School from 1995 to 2000, he writes to me all the time and has a deep interest in Walter Johnson. As everyone knows, Walter Johnson was an excellent baseball player, one of the historic pitchers whose record has not been broken. Charles Rideout is a really great guy. He eventually retired and moved to the Eastern Shore where he runs a bed and breakfast hotel. It is a big honor to be the Charles H. Rideout winner, the top student of the school academically, **Leonello**, we all know you as **Leo**, he is an incredible young man in so many ways. Next year he is going to the University of Maryland at College Park, with great pride to have been admitted into the A. James Clark School of Engineering, and the Honors College as well, and his ultimate objective is to pursue a major in Aerospace Engineering. In addition, he was awarded the full Banneker/Key Scholarship from the University of Maryland, which is the most prestigious merit-based scholarship that the university offers, and covers all cost, tuition, board, housing, and books, and is offered to only a few selected students. So, this is an incredible honor. Although Leonello was born in Maryland, he moved to Argentina, his parents' home country at the age of six, where he attended Elementary School, and it was not until sixth grade when he returned, and when he returned, he was placed in ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) for one year since he arrived since he was full bilingual speaker from the very beginning. So, despite a lot of obstacles, he has exhibited tremendous diligence, organization skills, and he really has a huge willingness to learn, which helped him deal with a lot of those challenges. So, he has strategies to not only do well academically, but also to save time, because he also has interest in Cross Country, Track, and volunteering two or three hours a day. Actually, he is one of the students who was awarded because of earning more than 700 SSL hours (Student Service Learning). So, this would not have been possible without those incredible teachers he gives credit to during his journey through North Bethesda Middle School and Walter Johnson High School. So, he is very proud, and he was recognized several awards along the way. He received in Middle School the Superintendent Student Service Learning Award, obviously and he continued to carry on that work. In seventh grade he received the Diligence Award and the President's Education Award at eight grade graduation, and we said, he has many hours of Student Service Learning, and he favorite work was as a Volunteer Assistant Teacher at the YMCA at their afterschool program and as a counselor at the YMCA Summer Camps. So, we are very proud and I am very honored to be awarding this to Leonello Castro Cillis, he is an incredible young man, I really want to see him thrive and I know he is going to do great things. So, please join me to congratulate a very incredible young man. Leo, great job!