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lete and a Phi Beta Kappa member, and has earned an academic varsity letter.

Math teacher Brian Shaw was named as his most influential teacher.

"(Shaw) taught me much about mathematics that has applications in other areas."

Students helping other students through tutoring is a good way to improve public education, Mokris says.

"This is beneficial for both the tutor and the tutored," he said.

Mokris is the son of Mark and Lynda Mokris and brother to Natalie, 14.

Luman Temby Thurston High School Redford

As a Thurston senior, Luman Temby shows that the most valuable lessons about teamwork are generally learned long before one even enters the workplace.

Temby, who has a varsity letter in football, hones his teamwork skills on the gridiron. He also is a National Honor Society member; plays basketball; tutors other students; is sports editor of the school newspaper; and has participated in building his class float.

Temby is undecided about where he will attend college, but plans to study business or engineering.

Academically, Temby was named 2001 Student of the Year; was on the Academic All State First Team for football; won the National English Merit Award in 2002; and was listed in Who's Who Among American High School Students, 34th and 35th editions.

Temby's most influential teacher was Jason Brater.

"He encouraged me to strive for my best and to think beyond Michigan, in terms of college and my future," Temby said.

Getting increased funding will help improve public education, according to Temby.

"I would seek to increase funding for all schools and improve infrastructure, discipline and standards in inner city schools."

Temby is the son of Mark and Teri Temby and brother to Tyler, 13.

Suzanne Valade Mercy High School Farmington Hills

If Suzanne Valade realizes her dream of becoming a professional translator or interpreter, she may be able to say that some of the activities she pursued as a Mercy High student helped push her in that direction.

Valade is troupe secretary and stage crew member of the International Thespian Society, and has logged more than 500 hours working on various stage productions - including *Peter Pan*, *The Night of January 16th*, *Carousel*, *Little Women*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Anne of Green Gables*, *Annie* and *Meet Me in St. Louis*.

Valade plans to attend Northwestern University or the University of Dayton, to study languages and international relations, for a possible career as an interpreter in business or politics. She has studied French in high school.

Academically, she is a National Merit Finalist and a National Honor Society member, and received regional and nation-

al honors from the Scholastic Art Awards.

Valade said that her most influential teacher has been Tom Schusterbauer, an English instructor.

"I am thankful to Mr. Tom Schusterbauer, my freshman year English teacher, who taught me to write well. He critiques literature with a dose of energy and spirit."

Valade says that focusing less on standardized tests will improve public education.

"In recent years, public education has focused too much on standardized tests, with the result that some students now see the point of their studies as passing tests, not gaining knowledge."

Valade is the daughter of William and Mary Ann Valade and sister to Mary Jane, 23.

Rebecca Lobenherz Salem High School Plymouth

Salem senior Rebecca Lobenherz has shown through her choices of activities the importance of pursuing both academic and volunteer endeavors.

Lobenherz has logged more than 170 hours with the American Cancer Society by working in its Discovery shops, and has volunteered with Relay for Life, Rouge River Rescue and a variety of school-sponsored events.

Lobenherz has also taken a turn at the mike for WSDP, her high school radio station, as a DJ, news director and news reporter, and is a member of both the student council and National Honor Society.

She plans to attend the University of Michigan, to study social sciences or physical sciences.

Academically, Lobenherz is a National Merit Scholarship honoree; was named in Who's Who Among American High School Students and received the Dean's Merit Scholarship for U-M.

Lobenherz didn't name any teacher as being the most influential.

"So many teachers have been influential that I don't want to name just one," she said.

To improve public education, Lobenherz said, "I would allow for more individual attention to students who needed help."

Lobenherz is the daughter of Jan Lobenherz and sister to Jessica, 20, and Christopher, 16.

Jerin Philip Detroit Catholic Central High School Northville

If Detroit Catholic Central senior Jerin Philip realizes his dream of becoming a doctor, he could say that he got a taste for helping others while working as a hospital volunteer and as a tutor to other students.

Philip is a volunteer at Detroit's Henry Ford Hospital. Other after-school pursuits include Varsity Quiz Bowl; serving as president of St. Thomas' Youth Group; and the Northville Tutoring Program.

Philip plans to attend the University of Michigan, Washington University, St. Louis, or Duke University, to study biomedical engineering for a career as a physician.

Academic feathers in his cap include the Gabriel Richard Club; being an All-Catholic League State Scholar; an honorable mention in the Father Enright Writing Contest and winning a National Merit Scholarship.

Philip's most influential teacher was Robert Talbot, math.

"His enthusiasm for math has rubbed off on me," Philip said.

To improve public education, Philip said he would "increase teacher salaries and de-emphasize teaching toward standardized tests."

Philip is the son of Jose and Annie Philip and brother to Jaime, 16, and John, 10.

Laura Anne Meili Clarenceville High School Livonia

Laura Anne Meili, a Clarenceville senior, is taking her time deciding what she wants to do with her life after high school - and even college.

"Ask me again in five years," she said of her post-high school and college plans. She plans to attend the University of Michigan or Miami University of Ohio to study psychology, math or writing for a possible career as a math teacher, counseling psychologist or writer.

Meili rounds out her high school days as captain of the varsity volleyball team, as a member of the pom pon squad, National Honor Society, band (color guard) and by writing for the school newspaper - where she has also served as page editor and copy editor.

On the academic front, Meili is a Michigan Math Prize test qualifier and a Detroit Free Press Student of the Week, and has been named to the High Honor Roll.

Bobbi Gutman was named as Meili's most influential teacher.

"Bobbi Gutman - she has become my second mom. She constantly pushes me when I'm up or I'm down. She refuses to settle for average."

One-on-one attention for students will help improve public education, Meili says. "I would try to get each student more individual attention either from teachers, counselors, etc. Kids need to know that what they do in school matters to others, too."

Meili is the daughter of Lisa Meili and sister of Evan Michael, 13.



Suzanne Valade
Mercy High School



Rebecca Lobenherz
Salem High School



Jerin Philip
Detroit Catholic Central High School



Laura Anne Meili
Clarenceville High School



Luman Temby
Thurston High School