

## What is STRIVE?

By Denise Ward

STRIVE is a motivational scholarship program for targeted seniors at JD Darnall Senior High School. Geneseo Rotary Club sponsors this program with support from Black Hawk College. While Todd Sieben and Denise Ward are current club representatives for STRIVE, many Rotarians have been involved with the program. Linda VanDerLeest, Guidance Counselor at the high school has also been instrumental in the STRIVE program.

To be eligible for the program, senior students must first be invited to participate and secondly complete a commitment form. This form states they must meet three criteria to be eligible for the scholarship:

1. Maintain a minimum of a "C" average.
2. Have an attendance record of 90% or better.
3. Improve his/her grade point average (GPA).

These students have been identified as those who have the ability to improve these three areas just by extending a little more effort, or *STRIVING* a little harder for success. The students meet monthly with Rotarians, at which time they hear from guest speakers who share their life stories, including challenges they have faced and obstacles overcome. Our job as Rotarians is to not only telling these students we believe in them, but also to show them our support and give encouragement. We believe in them!

The STRIVE Scholarship winner is the student who has completed the commitment form, maintained at least a "C" average and who has improved his/her GPA the most during the first three quarters of their senior year. Finally, they are required to have an attendance record of 90% or better to receive the scholarship.

The first place winner of the Strive Scholarship receives a one-year tuition scholarship to Black Hawk College. Rotarian Bob Orsi has presented the Eileen Orsi Memorial Scholarship to the second place student the past two years. In addition, monetary scholarships have been awarded to additional students.

STRIVE participants for 2002/2003 include: Alex Boelens, Allison Cole, Tamara Crockett, Josh Denys, Shane Dolieslager, Megan Gephart, Bobbi Keller, Erika Klavon, Ann-Marie Koch, Jessica Lavigne, Marieanne Newton, Noah Park, Sara Sides, Lacey Sullivan, and Christi Weber. If you know any of these young people please extend an encouraging word to them regarding their commitment to STRIVE.