

## Press Release

### **Johannesburg-Lewiston Graduate Receives AAUW Education Award**

Gaylord -- The American Association of University Women (AAUW) Gaylord Area Branch is pleased to announce that RaeAnn Kievit was selected as the recipient of a \$750 education award. This award is given annually to an exceptional young Otsego County woman who plans to continue her education in pursuit of career goals.

RaeAnn was Valedictorian of the graduating class of Johannesburg-Lewiston High School with a 4.0 grade point average. She will be attending Ferris State University in Fall 2018 to study Welding Engineering, with an added degree in Heavy Equipment. RaeAnn said that her dream to go into a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) related field was fueled when she attended AAUW sponsored TechSavvy events, both as a participant and as a volunteer.

In addition to her academic achievements, RaeAnn has taken on leadership roles within student government, National Honor Society and band. She participated in the Odyssey of the Mind (OM) program throughout her 13-year school career, making it to World Finals twice. An accomplished trombone player, RaeAnn was section leader in both Marching and Symphony Bands, performed at District Solo & Ensemble Festivals, and was selected for District 2 High School Honors Band for two years. RaeAnn is the daughter of Jerome and Cyndie Kievit.

Sheila Simpson, a member of the selection committee, said that "This year's applicants were outstanding academically, in their wide variety of volunteer and extra-curricular activities that benefit community and society, and in their career goals," and shared this statement by another reviewer: "Our world will be in good hands with future leaders like every one of these accomplished young women."

AAUW is a nationwide organization that advances equity and education for women and girls. The Gaylord Area Branch empowers through education awards, educational programs and honoring the achievements of local women. For more information, visit [gaylord-mi.aauw.net](http://gaylord-mi.aauw.net) or email [aauwgaylord@gmail.com](mailto:aauwgaylord@gmail.com).

####