

\$1000 Scholarship to Mabel Student

Written by Steve Frank

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Mabel eighth grader Justus Saunders has been awarded the Middle School Summer Enrichment Scholarship by the NCASFAA North Carolina Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NCASFAA) for the summer of 2012. The scholarship provides up to \$1,000 (Justus Saunders celebrates her award) to attend a summer enrichment program sponsored by a North Carolina college or university. Mabel Principal Mark Hagaman said "We are very proud of Justus and excited to see what camp she chooses to attend with her summer scholarship."

Only six students statewide receive Summer Enrichment Scholarships and just two of the six can be from the western part of the state. Justus was the only student in the Watauga County Schools to win a Summer Enrichment Scholarship.

with classmates at Mabel.

The scholarships, which are awarded annually by the NCASFFA, are intended to encourage middle school students who might not think they can attend college to recognize this is a realistic and important prospect for them to pursue. "Completing a summer program on a college campus can give a student a whole new perspective on the options available to them and can open doors to a whole new range of possibilities they may never have dreamed of before," said Christy Welch, school counselor at Mabel. "This is a wonderful opportunity for Justus to realize her potential for success in college and beyond."

Recipients of Summer Enrichment Scholarships must have a mentor to help them select their summer enrichment program and Welch has volunteered to serve as the mentor for Justus during this process. Welch is the current Watauga County Schools Counselor of the Year and is completing her tenth year as counselor at Mabel.