

Staying smoke-free PAYS



Polly Amy stands with Charles T. Amy Memorial Scholarship, or Parents Against Youth Smoking, winner Caitlin Kelly, an Eminence senior. Kelly signed a waiver at the beginning of her freshman year where she committed to be tobacco free, and her name was drawn out of a hat of all students who signed the waiver. Photo by Scott Roberts.

Senior gets scholarship for keeping tobacco-free vow

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EMINENCE

Eminence High School senior Caitlin Kelly said it was an easy decision to sign a waiver at the beginning of her freshman year to vow to be tobacco free for all of her high school career.

"You get busy doing things,

involved in activities, and keeping doing what you need to do, it's an easy decision to stay away from stuff that's not good for you," she said.

Now Kelly has been awarded with a \$1,500 scholarship for that decision, thanks to the Charles T. Amy Memorial Scholarship, also known as the Parents Against Youth Smoking, or PAYS Scholarship. Polly Amy started the scholarship

seven years ago to get students to sign a waiver saying they will not smoke all four years of school. Everyone who signs the waiver is put into a hat, and one name is drawn as the winner of the scholarship. Amy's grandson Sam usually does the drawing honors.

"What's really exciting is we had everyone in the freshman class sign the waiver,"

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Amy said. "This is a great way to keep kids from smoking, and it's much cheaper than some other ways."

There were 15 students eligible for the scholarship, and 20 who kept their vow to be tobacco-free all four years at the high school. The other five were not going to college. Only three students were pulled from the list.

Amy started the scholarship after her husband Charles died early because he smoked.

Kelly said she was honored to receive the award. She will be going to IUPUI for nursing next year with a minor in dance, and said the money will definitely be useful.

"I was kinda shocked actually," Kelly said. "I really can't believe it."