

2025 Harold H. “Hal” Smith Scholar, Donovan Macario-Avila



Pictured with Executive Director, Dr. Jen Price

Donovan is all about community. He has a unique ability to relate to others. He is always willing to help others that are in need and wants people to feel respected and accepted. His bubbly personality and kind manner endears him to everyone he meets. Donovan is dedicated to improving the area where he lives to make it a better place. He does this by volunteering his time at local food pantries, soup kitchens, and helping at local fundraisers.

Donovan shines in the classroom. He has a plethora of academic strengths, primarily in the fields of communication and language. Donovan fluently speaks two languages. For the past two years, Donovan has been taking classes exclusively at Northern Kentucky University and maintains a 4.0 GPA. Donovan applied to and was accepted to both the Craft Academy for Excellence in Science & Mathematics (Morehead State University), and the Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science (Western Kentucky University). Donovan has numerous academic awards in technology, mathematics, history, national entrepreneurship competitions, academic team, FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America), and FCCLA (Family and Career Community Leaders of America).

Not only does he have a job outside of school, but he is also a member of the bowling and baseball teams, both sports which he had never played before. When not on the field or on the lanes, Donovan can be found at Newport High School activities such as FBLA, FCCLA, Upward Bound, and the Academic Team. He is a distinguished member of the Young Scholars Academy, NHS Advisory Council, and the Superintendent's Advisory Council. Through all of this, he has maintained his achievement on the All-A Honor Roll.

Donovan has received letters of recognition from both Governor Andy Beshear and Representative Thomas Massie, both of whom are Governor's Scholars.

Donovan resides in Newport with his mom and dad, Maria and Everardo.



Donovan Macario-Avila
High School: Newport High School
GSP Campus: GSP-Murray
Focus Area: International Relations