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Courtney Toronto, Fair Lawn Scholarship Winner, is Off to Montclair State

FAIR LAWN, NJ - For Courtney Toronto, high school was all about science, but she did find time for a little "twirling" around.

"I especially liked biology," she said. "I liked learning about what makes one person have brown hair and another blond."

Toronto, a June Fair Lawn High School Graduate and competitive baton twirler, was awarded the Senior Scholarship from Lightbridge Academy worth \$500. Lightbridge Academy provides early education and child care to children ages six weeks through kindergarten, as well as special programming for children up to 10 years old during school holidays, breaks and summer camp.

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Toronto is beginning her freshman year at Montclair State University where she plans to combine her love for science with her call to teach as she attends a five-year program to receive certification in special education.

"I'm hoping to teach elementary school," she said. "Possibly even teach at a higher level."

Dina Duffy, Lightbridge Foundation Director, said the scholarship is given to one Fair Lawn graduating senior each year and is a way of becoming “an integral part of the community.”

Lightbridge Academy, established in 1997 and franchised in 2011, currently has over 100 child care centers either open, under construction or in development throughout Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, North Carolina and Florida.

“We want to reach into the community to those around us,” Duffy said. “We want to help a person each year on their way to school to move ahead in the field of education.”

Toronto is one of those individuals. She finished high school with a 3.9 grade point average and was awarded a few other scholarships totaling \$3,400.

She spent her summer twirling and competed in a national competition in July, winning a 3rd and 1st place with her two routines.