



### **Riley Gasson**

\$3,000 Grant in Memory of Katharine Jaruzelski  
\$6,000 College Woman's Club of Westfield Scholarship

Praised by her guidance counselor for her love of learning, critical thinking and passion for social justice, Riley Gasson has used all three attributes as an advocate and student advisor for Holocaust studies. While researching her Junior Research Paper on U.S. response to the Nazi genocide, Riley visited the Holocaust Resource Center at Kean University and was deeply moved and motivated to further study this horrific event.

She was accepted to USC's Shoah Foundation William P. Lauder internship program where she was one of 40 students nationwide who tested state-of-the-art technology for Holocaust education, including a hologram-like program that mimicked conversation with a survivor. Riley channeled these experiences into her Girl Scout Gold Award project, creating a platform for high school educators to teach bias, prejudice and anti-Semitism in underfunded school districts.

Riley's academics reflect her drive to excel; she is a member of the National Honor Society and maintains a 4.0+ GPA with a challenging curriculum that includes 2 honors and 4 AP classes. She still found time to manage the WHS Girls Swim team and serve on Model UN all four years of high school. She also volunteered as an adaptive swim instructor at Children's Specialized Hospital and works at the JCC pool.

Riley became EMT certified with the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, a goal she said she was driven to achieve because the experience of learning about 6 million lost lives inspired her to learn how to save even one. Riley plans to study Neuroscience at William & Mary with a possible future in medicine.