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Dorsey's owner gives scholarships to teen employees



Bill Wilson / The Anniston Star

Dorsey's supermarket. Left is new owner Gerry D'Alessandro Jr. and right is Sharrell Dorsey.
Photo by Bill Wilson / The Anniston Star

Thomas Howard May 9, 2017

OXFORD — Jaylin Borsh and Stephanie Escalante, employees of Dorsey's Supermarket, were awarded \$500 college scholarships Tuesday by the supermarket's owner, Gerry D'Alessandro.

According to a company statement, they are two among 10 high school-age employees who will share \$5,000 in scholarship money at Dorsey's and two other stores D'Alessandro owns elsewhere in Alabama.

Borsh has worked at Dorsey's for two years. She started shortly after she turned 16.

"Every little bit counts," Borsh said. "I really appreciate someone helping me out."

She'll graduate from Oxford High School this month and plans to attend the University of Alabama as a pre-med major.

"I don't really care about football," Borsh said. "I just love that campus."

Escalante is about to graduate from Lincoln High School. She has worked at Dorsey's for just over three months.

"I'm really grateful that they'd give this to me after I'd just started," said Escalante, who plans to attend Gadsden State Community College in the fall to study business administration.



D'Alessandro said about a quarter of his employees are high school students.

“We feel it’s our role as a corporate citizen to give back,” D'Alessandro said. “We really take pride in giving kids their first jobs.”

This is the first time this scholarship has been awarded. D'Alessandro said he is considering making it an annual event.

“We’ll see how it’s received by the students, but we’d like to continue it,” D'Alessandro said.

In addition to Dorsey’s, D'Alessandro also owns Fourth Avenue Supermarket in Bessemer and Fresh Value Marketplace in Trussville.

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