

# Unique scholarship awarded in fallen soldier's name

**By Steven Fisher** Published: January 22, 2015, 5:43 pm

YORK, Pa. (WHTM) – York County native and U.S. Army Specialist Zachary Clouser was killed by an IED in Iraq in 2007. Since then a scholarship program has been created by his family to remember him.

“The tragedy that we had to endure, we are now turning that into positive energy and making the lives of others just a little bit better,” Zach’s mom Deb Etheridge said.

Thursday at the YTI Motorcycle Technology Center, two recipients were awarded the scholarship.

“Some kids, the middle of the road kids that go through school, they are perfectly good students, but academically they struggle. But you give them a hands-on portion like a technical school and they excel,” Zach’s stepdad Ron Etheridge Sr. said.

Those are the type of students who earn that scholarship, which is open to those who have a GPA under 2.5; students who embody Zach’s hard working nature.

“It gives you a drive to keep trying because there are opportunities out there. You just got to find them,” scholarship recipient Brendan Conklin said.

Conklin says he was never academically inclined, always mechanically inclined.

“When I am working with my hands it just comes natural, second nature. I was never good in school with taking tests,” he said.

J.R. Warner is the same way, proving intelligence is not always measured in tests.

“For once in my life, it’s not about how much money I can make, it’s about doing what I love to do,” Warner said.

Clouser is a lot like each of them and now they share an unbreakable bond.

“It means a lot knowing what he sacrificed for us for our country and that he is still giving back,” Warner said.

ABC27.com

© Copyright 2000 - 2015 Media General Communications Holdings, LLC. A Media General Company.