A Trumansburg graduate was one of two area students who recently learned what it’s like to be a human rights attorney.

Olivia Colón, a recent graduate from Trumansburg’s Charles O. Dickerson High School, and Abigail Salico, a 10th-grade student from Union Springs High School, were the joint first-prize winners in the Global Gender Justice Equality Competition 2015 hosted by Cornell Law School’s Avon Global Center for Women and Justice.

Their prize was to spend a day at Cornell University learning about international human rights and how lawyers work to protect women’s rights.

Megan McLemore, a senior researcher in the Health and Human Rights Division of Human Rights Watch, talked with the winners about her experiences defending marginalized communities such as transgender sex workers, according to a release from Cornell.

The young women also participated in a simulation designed to mimic choices a human rights lawyer must make when responding to human rights violations, the release stated. They explored a hypothetical human rights crisis and were asked to recommend legal and non-legal ways to address the human rights violations.

Colón, who will attend Swarthmore College this fall, said she enjoyed learning about how attorneys work to help those who are suffering injustices.

“The most important thing, however, I learned ... was that it is possible for me, if I so choose, to make a career out of what was once only a passion of mine; and that would be fighting for global equality,” she said in a statement.

To read the winning entries and learn more about the Gender Equality Competition 2015, visit bit.ly/1dxE0H.

College-bound

A 17-year-old junior at Cascadilla School in Ithaca hasn’t yet finished high school but has been accepted into the fall freshman class at Bard College at Simon’s Rock.

The college said Nathaniel Bokaer-Smith’s academic and personal achievements secured his spot at the campus in Great Barrington, Massachusetts.

Reenlisting

Spc. Robert White from Cortland has reenlisted to continue service with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 102nd Military Police Battalion of the New York Army National Guard.

Scholarships awarded

Four Dryden High School students are among 88 students in 14 states who have received scholarships from InVEST, the insurance industry’s classroom to career education program.

Scholarships were awarded to: Kalie Rauch, $2,000; Alexandra Griffin, $1,000; Dalton Burk, $1,000, and Alexandra Zehr, $500.

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