NIKKI M. GIAMPOLO:
'IN SPIRIT, IN COURAGE' AWARD

Nikki Giampolo was one of a kind. She joined LEHY at the age of 9, and quickly found a home with the team. She was one of the top breaststrokers in the state, qualifying for the CT Zone Team and YMCA Nationals in her specialty. More noticeable on the pool deck was her personality. Always smiling, always acting crazy, always being a true friend. She gave every swim 100% effort and was always there for her teammates. Outside of the pool, Nikki was an honors student at RHAM High School, accomplish flutist, and a top ranked cross country runner. In June of 2001 Nikki was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma, bone cancer. She fought the disease with grace and dignity. Never looking for sympathy and reminding everyone around her how special each day was. On January 1, 2002 , Nikki passed away, but her spirit lives on through her family at LEHY. She will always be our guardian swimmer.

The **Nikki M. Giampolo "In Spirit, In Courage" Award** was established to recognize a LEHY swimmer (yearly) who displays the same high academic standards, commitment to the sport of swimming, and team driven attitude that Nikki had. Any LEHY swimmer or family member may make a nomination. All submissions should be completed on the nomination forms and given to Coach Kaeley. If you have any further questions please contact Coach Kaeley.

Above the 2008 LEHY Long Course National Team remembers and honors Nikki by wearing swim caps with NIKKI printed on them. The caps have become a tradition since 2008. Below the 2010 LEHY National Team made shirts in Nikki's memory and wore them for opening ceremonies.

Past Winners

- 2002 Jennifer Morgan
- 2003 Carly Huffman
- 2004 Emily Johnson
- 2005 Eric Jackwin
- 2006 Jamie Francis
- 2007 Chelsea Heneghan
- 2008 Courtney Bogue
- 2009 Andrew Jackwin
- 2010 Mitchell Cook
- 2011 Jonathan Burr
- 2012 Steven Geier
- 2013 Kaitlyn Thomesen
- 2014 Rachel Dziatko
- 2015 Marysia Borucinska-Begg
- 2016 Alyssa DiFiore
- 2017 Tegan Ruschmeier
- 2018 Maura Stewart and Anthony Meglin
- 2019 Abby Francis