



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Maryland's Social Services Agency



PRESS RELEASE

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For more information:

Paula Tolson

410-767-7758

ptolson@dhr.state.md.us

Women of Tomorrow Award Presented to Six Young Women

BALTIMORE – The Department of Human Resources' Maryland Commission for Women (MCW) today held their 12th annual ceremony, and awarded six young women with the Women of Tomorrow Award. The Maryland Commission on Women promotes and supports accomplished young ladies through their Women of Tomorrow awards.

“This annual event acknowledges and honors young women who have made noteworthy and important contributions to their communities, and who unquestionably will assume leadership positions in their chosen fields,” said Brenda Donald. This year's Women of Tomorrow Award honorees include:

7th – 8th Grade Honoree



Kiauna Nickole Freeman resides in White Plains, Maryland and is a student of Matthew Henson Middle School. Her compassion to serve extends throughout Matthew Henson Middle School where she is a member of Student Council, the Chorus, the Basketball Team and the Drama Club. She most recently performed the lead role in the school's spring production, *Supercomics*. Kiauna consistently demonstrates excellence in creating, developing, and sustaining opportunities for community service, social action, and learning.

The extent and depth of her contributions include partnering with her local church and community in several ways. She is a dedicated member of Choose Life Church Ministries, where she gracefully serves as a member of the Dance Ministry, and the Youth Council.

Kiauna's pursuit of academic excellence has aided her in maintaining honor roll status. She currently has an impressive 4.0 grade point average in the Scholars Choice of Study program (enrichment courses). While attending William B. Wade elementary school, she was the recipient of the United States President's Award and has since received several Matthew Henson School Principal, Citizenship, and Honor Roll Awards. In addition, her qualifications have afforded her the opportunity to participate in the John Hopkins Center for Talented Youth program. Kiauna constantly sets high standards for herself and anticipates one day becoming an Engineer.

7th – 8th Grade Honorable Mention



Natalie Brosh is 12 years old and in the seventh grade at Patterson Mill Middle School in Bel Air, MD. Natalie is a strong advocate for hospitalized children. She was the 2008 Ambassador Champion for Johns Hopkins Children's Center and the Children's Miracle Network Ambassador for the state of Maryland. Natalie has participated in fundraising events and given speeches, radio interviews, and television appearances on behalf of Hopkins Children's Center. Natalie firmly believes that children requiring medical attention deserve excellent care, just as she received throughout her childhood. Natalie's personal history involves many struggles with the disorder Osteogenesis Imperfecta which causes skeletal problems such as fragile bones. Despite her medical issues, Natalie has excelled as a student and youth with many interests.

Natalie has been recognized for academic excellence on the Principal's Distinguished Honor Roll, and was recently invited to join the National Junior Honor Society. At school, she participates in the Theatre Society, and has performed in two productions. Her strong patriotic spirit is evident by her achievement of Distinguished Patriot every year from Kindergarten through Fifth grade and recently she received a state-level award for her Patriot's Pen essay on the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Natalie has earned high awards in Science Fair competition for her projects in fifth, sixth, and seventh grades, including first place honors for projects on bay grasses and global warming. She participates in the Parent Teachers Association Reflections Program and has won awards, including *Outstanding Interpretation* honors, at county and state levels for her musical compositions, poems, and stories.

Natalie enjoys participating in extracurricular activities in her community, including activities at her church and competitive swimming. Her cooperativeness, kindness, and camaraderie with her swim teammates have twice earned her the Coach's Award.

9th – 10th Honoree



D'ymond Shantyl Dantzler was born in Columbia, Maryland and began her educational journey at a Columbia Head Start program. At the conclusion of the program, D'ymond was one of only two children to receive a full scholarship to the St. Johns Parish Day School in Ellicott City for completion of kindergarten. At St. Johns, D'ymond learned to speak several phrases in Korean, Chinese, Japanese, Italian, French, Russian and German.

Continuing her education at Clemons Crossing, it wasn't long before D'ymond began to be known, not only in her school, but her community as well. She is a very talented vocalist and was the first and only student in the history of Clemons Crossing Elementary School to be selected to sing "*Lift Every Voice*" before the entire assembly. Her talent was evident at an early age. At 7 years old she received a rousing standing ovation for her portrayal of Dorothy from "*The Wizard*" during a community-wide talent show. That same year, she was instrumental raising funds to aid in the purchase of property for her church's learning center, and was able to raise over \$3,000 from the community to help with this project.

D'ymond has received numerous awards to include: the Honor Roll for First, Second, and Third quarter at Randallstown High School; Principal's Honor Roll in February and May, 2008 from Old Court Middle School; a Certificate of Membership and pin for induction into the National Junior Honor Society of Secondary Schools at Southwest Academy in May, 2007; a Certificate of Achievement awarded by the Council of the Elders of the Black Community of Howard County for academic excellence and a Certificate of Participation in *Its Black-Ademic* at Oakland Mills High School in Columbia, Maryland in March, 2004. She has been on the honor roll for every quarter since the third grade.

9th – 10th Grade Honorable Mention



Kelly Ann Marx attends Stephen Decatur High School in Berlin, Maryland. As a freshman she serves as secretary for the National Junior Honor Society. Kelly is a member of the Key Club, Weight Training Club, Oratorical Club and Eco-Logic Club. She plays Field Hockey for her school team and is a member of Berlin's recreational Softball Team. Since Kelly began school she has been on the Honor Roll and Principal's List for receiving all A's. Her superior essay skills earned her the honor of a Trip to the U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama.

Kelly is treasurer for her church's youth fellowship group and is also a member of the Ocean Pines Children's Players Theater Group. She has also earned the Gold Award for the Delaware Lt. Governor's Physical Fitness Challenge. As a Girl Scout Kelly has earned her Bronze and Silver Award, God & Church Award, Cadet Leadership Award, and attended the 2008 Women of Distinction Dinner at Hotel DuPont as a flag bearer for the Opening Ceremony.

In addition she has been nominated for the Presidential Volunteer Service Award and the Delaware Lt. Governor Youth Service Award. Kelly is currently working on her Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award.

11th – 12th Grade Honoree



Jasmine Adams of Dunkirk, Maryland, is a 12th grade student at Northern High School where she is ranked in the top 1% of her class. She is passionate about leadership through service, and speaking up for the voiceless. Jasmine aspires to become a lawyer, politician and one day perhaps, the President of the United States.

Jasmine's current mission is to make the academic environment a rewarding and enriching one for her peers. She serves as the President of the National Honor Society, Editor-in-Chief of the school's newspaper, Vice President of the Student Government Association, and a student mentor at Northern High School. Her leadership extends to all students of Calvert County as she serves as the 2008 -2009 President of the Calvert Association of Student Councils (CASC). She made history in 2007 when she was voted the Student Member on the Board of Education for Calvert County, becoming the first African American, female, junior to ever serve in that capacity. At the state level, Jasmine is the Maryland Educational Liaison, a position that entails coordinating workshops, meetings and conferences for students to have the opportunity to interface with members of the Maryland State Board of Education, lobbyists and politicians.

Jasmine is active in her community and has received several appointments by politicians, school administrators and community leaders. Her appointments include student member for a special task force addressing students with multiple school suspensions; student member on the Maryland Youth Advisory Committee; and, student representative for Northern High School on the Calvert Advisory Committee.

- Martin O'Malley, Governor
- Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
- Brenda Donald, Secretary

11th – 12th Grade Honorable Mention



Valerie Caplan is an excellent example of Baltimore County's George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology's tradition of excellence, and of its culture of respect and collaboration. She knows that true leadership focuses on service and commitment to community. It is in this vein that she quietly and confidently works to improve the world for others. She is a well-rounded student with a superior work ethic that is further bolstered by her abundant compassion for service.

As a student in Carver Center's literary arts prime, Valerie maintains a 4.0 GPA with a full academic load of advanced placement and gifted and talented courses. She has been recognized as an Advanced Placement Scholar, National Merit Commended Student, Maryland Distinguished Scholar Honorable Mention in Achievement, and a BCPS Ethics Award winner.

Valerie is not only talented and driven in academics but also in athletics. She is a member of the varsity cross-country, indoor track, and outdoor track teams. This year, she was the 1A North Individual Champion in Cross Country – a first for Carver Center - and was recognized as a Second All Division Team member. Valerie helped to organize the first annual Carver Fitness Five K run hosted by the cross-country team. She is a role model and a leader among her peers. As a student board member of the Carver Foundation, Valerie takes part in the decision making necessary to disburse private donations to the programs within the school.

Valerie is a volunteer at St. Vincent's Center, which provides residential treatment to abused children. This year, she organized Carver Center's team for the Susan G. Koman Race for the Cure. The team was able to meet its monetary and participant goals through Valerie's efforts. She also participated in the Save a Limb Foundation annual run and organized Carver's participation in the annual Turkey Trot to raise money for research around Crohns Disease and Colitis at Johns Hopkins Hospital and the University of Maryland Medical systems.

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The Maryland Department of Human Resources is the state's social service provider. The agency collaborates with 24 local jurisdictions to: provide foster care, adoption and protective services to children; collect and distribute child support payments; and provide temporary cash, food stamps and medical assistance to families. It also funds programs for homeless persons, refugees, migrant workers, victims of crime and women who are displaced, battered or assaulted. Last year, DHR served 638,000 people in need. In terms of its annual budget, DHR is Maryland's fourth largest state agency.

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