

Alabama

Ciera Thompson
Florence High School



Ciera has excelled in every fashion class that the Florence Academy of Fine Arts provides. She has created her own fashion collections for the past 3 years for the annual fashion show. Ciera is the president of FCCLA this year and competes in STAR events every year. Last year, she won gold in fashion design where she had to design her own pattern with full instructions and an example of the garment.

Last summer, Ciera helped sew children's clothes to donate to those in need. She has great character and respect for others. Ciera has a vision of what she wants to do after high school and that's helping others through her talent of fashion design and construction. She also is a varsity basketball player.

Arkansas

James Mangrum
Lakeside High School



James is an aspiring novelist. He is currently writing a novel that is inspired by his thoughts and past experiences. James enjoys reading classical literature and reading novels from Dostoyevsky, Kafka, Tolstoy and Nietzsche. According to his teacher, James has an “amazing character and genius level vocabulary”. He is interested in studying agriculture, aquaculture systems, and education. James desires to become a teacher.

Marion Smith
Earle High School



Marion Smith is an incredible, one of a kind, young man. He attended school where exposure to extracurricular activities and opportunities are limited. Marion attends the local city council meetings on his own due to his intense interest in politics.

He took it upon himself to found the Student Council and was nominated president. He takes advantage of every opportunity that comes his way. On a recent trip to the state capital, Marion went into every office that had an open door, introduce himself, and ask what exactly each office did. Marion is making his way to the White House.

California

Mariana Arzate
Mount Diablo High School



Mariana is an athlete and an active community member. Her top priority is education. She has earned 4.0's throughout high school. She is a peer mentor to her classmates by tutoring and providing them tips on how to study and manage their time. In her junior and senior year she played soccer and tennis and was a team captain. Mariana is a member of Key Club, Link Crew, CSF (California Scholarship Federation, Inc.), HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America) and the Career Pathway Advisory Committee. After high school, she will be attending college to earn a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing. Mariana is currently seeking a volunteer position at a hospital near her.

Ariana Campos
El Rancho High School



Ariana Campos has earned Principal Honor roll all four years of high school. She is a member of the varsity swim, finalist for 38th Congressional District Art contest, Teen court juror for three years, helped with children reading program at the local library. Ariana is also an active member of the Culinary Arts Club which is the largest club on campus. She maintains the highest grade in Culinary Arts with a 106%. Ariana is a culinary genius. Her creativity and problem solving skills are top of the class and she knows how to work well independently and as a team player. She plans to pursue communications specifically in cinema and digital arts.

Matthew Cardinale
Napa High School



Matt joined the competitive FIRST robotics team as a sophomore. He learned computer aided design on his own and built a full on robot with his teacher. The next year Matt and his teacher started a competitive robotics team (Napa High Cellar Rats Team # 6918) with the help of another instructor. This student team that Matt created and lead competed at UC Davis where we placed in the top 20% of several hundred schools and won two awards.

This year, with his leadership, the team has doubled in students and positioned for a bright future teaching real STEM to students from 4 different schools in the area. His school now has an exceptional robotics team because of his drive, intelligence and exceptional leadership qualities.

Ryan Decius
Vintage High School



Ryan Decius started his own business [RAD Enterprises](#) while in high school. He specializes in wood working. Ryan designs and creates custom furniture. Seeing his finished pieces is beyond impressive. He is empathetic, mature, and ready for college.

Alanna Le
Mount Diablo High School



Alana is enrolled in the Medical and Biotechnology Academy within the Patient Care Pathway. She plays two sports, serve as vice president of Key Club International (student-led organization based on service and volunteerism to help raise money for Pediatric trauma program), Pupil member of Site Council, and member of HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) club. Outside of school, she participate in college readiness classes such as Berkeley Boost HAAS (youth entrepreneur program), SMASH (Math and Science Summer Honors) Berkeley, and volunteer at John Muir Health every Friday.

But most of all, Alana enjoys assisting students in discovering opportunities and networking skills. She believes being a leader does not always mean you have to be in the spotlight. It could mean being in the shadows, serving as a mentor and giving guidance when needed. It's about knowing when to step in, when to step out and maneuvering yourself between those two positions to bring out the best in others.

Alana takes every opportunity she can to help those around her which brings her great comfort to elevating one's life in a positive way.

Sabrina Lee
Mt. Everest Academy



Sabrina was a founding member of the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) Student Equity Ambassadors and now in her senior year, is leading the group. Student Equity Ambassadors, through a process of humble inquiry, seek to understand what strengthens all students' connection to school and community. Their voice has been critical in starting district and community conversations about defining success, identifying obstacles, and developing solutions that will benefit all SDUSD students.

It is the mission of the Student Equity Ambassadors to provide a voice for the students in her school district and Sabrina works diligently to ensure this happens. With the program in its third year, all responsibility has been turned over to the students and under Sabrina's leadership and guidance; the program is the strongest it has ever been. Sabrina has created something that students want to be a part of and other school districts hope to model.

Dulce Maldonado
Duarte High School



Dulce has been in multiple Career Technical Education-CTE classes. All of her instructors agree that she is a strong leader. Dulce is in the culinary entrepreneurship academy, has passed both NAF tests and is currently on track to be NAFtrack certified. She will be competing at SkillsUSA in photography and in Virtual Enterprise for entrepreneurship.

Zachary Patterson
University City High School



Zachary is a 9th grade youth activist. In seventh grade Zachary recognized the lack of student representation in the school district. He began building a Student Advisory Board for the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD). Through his activism, Zachary has enacted State Law AB 261. This states that with enough signatures from students in a specific school district, the Board of Education is required to add a student member with preferential voting rights. Being that San Diego Unified School district has over 100,000 students, his work towards representing students will be no small feat. He will present his petition and ideas to the Board of Education in the spring.

Zachary was an organizer and speaker at the San Diego March For Our Lives - which over 10,000 people attended. He did this all while he was the head organizer of his own school's walkout. Recently, Zachary went to a conference and was able to get support for a bill that requires schools to post their sexual harassment procedures in a public place. He spent hours lobbying senators and assembly-members in order to gain support for the bill. Zachary is dedicated, driven, and cares deeply about the world around him.

Kassandra Saldana
El Rancho High School



Kassandra has been involved in Track and Field for all four years of high school. She is currently the varsity captain for the throwers of the team. On her free time, she volunteers in her local hospital. She has gotten an award for an achievement of more than 100 hours of service. As a student, she has received Principal's Honor Role for keeping her GPA above a 3.5. Kassandra is also president of the Culinary Arts Club, which is the largest club on campus with over 400 members.

The Culinary Arts Club serves the community and does awesome projects such as feeding the homeless for Thanksgiving and caters for various school events to promote positive behavior. She also has the highest grade in class with a 106% Kassandra is a creative genius in the kitchen. She is an outstanding team player with amazing leadership skills. She is able to manage events by herself and delegate responsibilities to other students. She is very respected and admired. She is also a perfectionist and cares about everything she does. Kassandra wishes to pursue biology to become a doctor. Now that Kassandra has added "Chef" to her resume with nutrition knowledge, she can include all of her food and nutrition experience into her study.

Jerry Yang
Scripps Ranch High School



Jerry is not only the ASB President of Scripps Ranch High School, he is also the ASB President of the Council of ASB Presidents for the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD), he owns his own business, he maintains nearly perfect grades, keeps a consistent workout schedule and is currently writing a novel. He strategically schedules out almost every minute of every day to ensure he maximizes productivity while always making sure he takes the time to sit down to get to know others and learn about the things that are important to them.

Jerry has built a strong network by taking advantage of opportunities and utilizing the time to learn what makes some of the most successful people successful. He frequently sits on the SDUSD Board of Education serving as a representative of the students in our district engaging in dialogue with the Board of Education and Superintendent and is seen as the "go-to" student for the district. Jerry plans to run for president in the year 2050.

Connecticut

Zachary Asaolu

Fairchild Wheeler Inter-district Science Magnet High School



Zachary has beaten the odds of his autism disability and has excelled in school. This year, his junior year, Zachary has been earning A's and has made High Honors. At his school award ceremony, Zachary earned 5 awards- Perfect Attendance, High Honors, Chemistry, Social Studies, and Leadership! Zachary is never one to give up; if he doesn't understand something he will practice until he gets it right; he will ask for clarification and persevere. Zachary not only is a great student academically, but also socially. He is a member of the National Honor Society which raises money for good causes and a strong competitor in the Chess Club. He volunteers in the community for neighborhood clean-up and preservation and works at his church.

Zachary lost his father suddenly last year, but still made it a point to hand in all his assignments. Despite the challenges now of being raised by a single mother, Zachary's face is always beaming ear-to-ear with a bright smile which can brighten up anyone's cloudy mood. Zachary has got what it takes to be very successful in life in his hopeful career of architecture or meteorology.

Dralion MenteRah

Fairchild Wheeler Inter-District Magnet High School



Dralion is a 15 year old high school student at Fairchild Wheeler. He is looking to pursue a technology engineering career to enhance his creative and building talent. Dralion has overcome many obstacles growing up from being bullied at a young age. He joined youth groups such as Save Our Youth in Connecticut and Project Morry in NY. As a member in the Community Enrichment program, he is heavily involved as a volunteer which includes cooking and serving at homeless shelters. Dralion also finds the time to play bingo with senior citizens.

He mentors youth in his community who have struggled in the same areas he had growing up in hopes to guide them on a path of positivity. He teaches them to use their abilities as an avenue to search within themselves and find who they are as a person. He is a humble young man who knows what he wants to do in life and strives to excel at it. His mission is to enhance the quality of life for residents in his community.

Dralion name means for dragon and lion meaning wisdom and strength lives up to his name through his daily actions and hopes that one day he will become the man that he knows he can be. His confident demeanor and commitment to excellence in service makes him a person who is on the watch for future leadership greatness.

Colorado

Jared Hicks
Cherry Creek High School



Jared has been enrolled in CareerWise apprenticeship program since his 11th grade year. CareerWise Colorado's mission is to create opportunities for youth and businesses across Colorado by developing and supporting an innovative, sustainable youth apprenticeship program. Jared works for Alterra Mountain Company in Denver, CO. He is training to get his certification as a Quality Assurance Engineer. He will be working part-time at Alterra until he graduates high school. He will then continue to work at Alterra and take classes at Community College of Denver in order to take his apprenticeship exam.

This is an amazing accomplishment for Jared as he has struggled with ADHD since he was a little boy and school has not always been easy for him. Despite this fact, Jared has persisted and found a pathway that he will be successful in. Jared is quite bright and despite having very good scores on tests, his grades have not always reflected his level of knowledge. This has been a frustration for Jared, and we're all so proud that he has done so well in his apprenticeship. There are many pathways to success, and we're happy to share Jared's pathway and journey with you.

Delaware

Taiwo Dorcas Olatunji

The Charter School of Wilmington



Being an identical twin is hard enough when that twin is also a student in your school, but Dorcas stands out in one unique way. She was part of an afterschool program last year designed to mentor students with their creative thought process. This program known as Dual School guides students to develop a game plan in seeing an idea worthy of exploring and setting up a two or three-year plan in order to accomplish their goal.

She presented her formal program last January to the Advisory Board. Dorcas' vision relates to a game plan that nurtures the comradie needed within school homerooms wherein students reside for four years. Dorcas had observed the inherent lack of communication within homerooms and truly the lack of awareness of others' existence in that very homeroom. I have been impressed with how she is working with our administration in terms of gaining faculty support. Each faculty member has the same homeroom for four years thus following the student through grade levels. The idea is that if you build a "family" atmosphere within the homeroom, then that will affect the grade level "family" atmosphere and thus the entire student body.

She created an app called T^2 that aims to alleviate stress and motivate community resource usage for a school community. She is a strong participant in the Youth in Government program and has a passion for the study of law.

Not only does Dorcas perform well as a student, but also her kindness and consideration of others and her exuberance and joy toward life make her an outstanding addition to any class or community. She is a natural leader and always aware of the needs of individuals as well as the community. Further, it is Dorcas' mission, almost joy, to help fill any need that she sees. Dorcas will be a mover and shaker of its application in others' lives whom she touches. She is an impressive human being!

Kehinde Deborah Olatunji
The Charter School of Wilmington



Deborah Olatunji is a poised, confident, articulate leader respected by peers and teachers alike. She thrives on empowering her fellow students through mentoring and creating environments that energize and promote individuality and creativity. Recently she discovered a passion for educational advocacy. In Deborah's opinion, the current 'one-size-fits-all' educational system is severely flawed. She therefore has made it her mission to actively search for ways that will better accommodate the diverse needs of today's student.

Hence in 2017, Deborah founded the Student Leadership Initiative Program (SLIP). SLIP is a social venture designed to expose students to new ideas and encourage them to think and act beyond the classroom. As a result of this initiative, SLIP provides students at her school a place where they can gather to share ideas, encourage and support one another, and tackle projects they believe will help improve their communities.

As well, this past summer, Deborah was invited to join the GripTape Youth Leadership Board. GripTape is an initiative of America Achieves that is committed to putting youth in control of their education. Board members play a pivotal role to expand and design partnerships that support youth-to-youth learning. Thanks to support received from GripTape, Deborah, herself was able to further develop her artistic passion for digital photography and branding. As a member of the GripTape Leadership Board, Deborah searches for innovative ways to support her passions and inspire others to discover their passions. Deborah is not afraid to speak up about matters important to her.

In January 2018, Deborah competed in the MLK Communication Contest, a statewide competition that challenges Delaware high school students to reflect on Dr. King's legacy and share how his work in the 1960's speaks to them today. Deborah's powerful message, titled, "I AM," reflected her truth and earned her third place.

Since the competition, Deborah has received several speaking invitations from community groups such as the Power and Change Conference organized by the Coalition to Dismantle the New Jim Crow and Women of Consequence produced by Dr. Lynette Overby at the University of Delaware. Outside of school, she is writing a book on educational advocacy that outlines ideas she believes will serve to improve the current educational system and take it into the future. She hopes to publish it October 2019.

Florida

Anna Barry

Gulf Coast High School



Anna is an adamant political activist, and a supporter of her peers. She is the Founder and Program [Director/President of the Student Alliance on Mental Illness or SAMI](#). This organization works to provide therapy and diagnostic services to minors who cannot get parental consent or who cannot afford treatment. This is covered by a new law in Florida legislation, Florida statues, Title XXIX Chapter [394.4784](#).

She founded this organization because of the struggles she have endured involving mental illness. In her sophomore year of high school she was diagnosed with depression, anxiety, bulimia, and OCD which had ravaged her way of life for the past four years.

Anna improved because of therapy and medication that she only had access to being a member of the middle class with supportive parents. She acknowledged her peers inability to receive treatment because of their home or financial situation; opening her eyes to yet another gap because of socioeconomic stance.

SAMI work to advocate against the stigma of mental illness through fundraisers and social media campaigns while also working with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI Collier) to provide confidential therapy and diagnostic services to those who do not have parental consent or the financial means. Her goal is to spread this organization nationally and to eliminate the stigma of mental illness altogether, giving adolescents a safe haven to look to in times of need. Follow SAMI on Instagram: @sami_colliercounty and Twitter: @SAMI_Collier.

Brenna Spieth
Lorenzo Walker Technical HS



Brenna is an activist and has a lot to say about LGBT and mental health issues. She is enrolled in the entrepreneurship program and a member of the Gay Straight Alliance at her high school. Brenna is one of the hosts of the podcast ["Cryptid Conversations"](#). This podcast talks about mysterious creatures, like Bigfoot! She is a member of her school WeDineTogether group. WeDineTogether is a national anti-bullying and "no one eats alone" initiative. Brenna is passionate about music, cosplay, and business. She plans to continue to pursue a business/entrepreneurship degree and become an entrepreneur. Brenna will be giving a presentation about pollution, global warming, and ocean cleanup at Florida Gulf Coast University this summer.

Isabel Leija Cabrera
Lorenzo Walker Technical High School



Isabel will be the first to attend college in her family. She has a passion for entrepreneurship and marketing. Isabel choose to go to Lorenzo Walker Technical high school because their entrepreneurship program. As a result, Isabel has created an environmentally friendly company called Onigeari. Onigeari is a business that specializes in biodegradable seaweed straws.

Ralph Levy
NeoCity Academy



As a freshman in high school, Ralph designed a 3-D and programmed a working mechanical arm with minimal outside guidance. He is a Star Scout, earns excellent grades, volunteers in his community, and is always willing to help anyone around him. He is enrolled in the Bio-Design Pathway program and wants to change the world.

Victor Marquez
NeoCity Academy



Victor is an amazing young man who is helping the planet on social and environmental levels. He has created a [website](#) (NCAHH) which stands for NeoCity Academy Homework Help for his peers to connect and tutor each other. He has also designed a garden to test synthetic soil from Mars to find ways to effectively grow plants. Victor's ideas and follow through are way beyond his years and we are excited to see what other contributions he will give to the world.

Isabella Seefeld
St. Cloud High School



Isabella Seefeld is a student in the Level 4 Early Childhood Education class and she stands out among her peers. She is currently working on her industry certification, the National Child Development Associate.

It requires four years of Early Childhood Education, a professional portfolio, 480 hours of contact with children, a test at a local agency, and a two-hour observation by an outside specialist.

She has worked hard in class to prepare herself and she has also taken classes in the Teacher Academy program. In addition to a full load of classes, she also works a part-time job at a local child care facility, where she uses her skills and knowledge to take care of young children. Isabella is also an essential part of Career and Technical Student Organization, FCCLA - Family Career and Community Leaders of America. She is currently serving as the Vice-President and is the chairperson of the breast cancer awareness committee. Isabella is a highly motivated student and plans to go into the field of education.

Mei-Ling Ho-Shing

Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School



Mei-Ling Ho-Shing is a National Student Activist. She became an activist after she survived the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High in Parkland, Florida that left her 17 classmates and teachers dead.

Georgia

Braelyn Byum

Maynard Jackson High School



Braelyn is the proud business owner of B' Pretty Boutique. B' Pretty Boutique offers a wide selection of active wear products for males and females. She has a fully functional [website](#) offering various methods of payment options for the convenience of her customers. Braelyn's logo renders a presence on social media platforms that advertises her product line to a wider audience. She is truly a highly motivated and ambitious business leader.

Bailey Diamond

North Atlanta High School



Bailey recently earned her Girl Scout Gold Award, for a project entitled the Edgy Veggie. The Gold Award is the highest award you can earn as a Girl Scout, equivalent to a Boy Scout Eagle Award.

To earn this award, Bailey led workshops around the greater Atlanta (Buckhead) area for kids, teens, and adults about healthy eating and body image. She also started a Clean Eating Club at North Atlanta High School, started an Instagram campaign with followers around the nation, and printed reusable canvas bags for grocery shopping through fundraising efforts.

Through her efforts, giving more than 115 hours of service, Bailey not only impacted many people, she also used leftover raised funds to make a large donation to the Peachtree Road Farmers Market for supplies from their ongoing wish list, including stamps, sidewalk chalk, and duct tape.

She was also recently named one of Girls Scouts of Greater Atlanta Council Young Women of Distinction for 2019. Bailey was recently named as one of the Teen Volunteers of the Year by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Greater Atlanta Chapter for National Philanthropy Day (3rd place). Bailey has also just been named as one of Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta's Council Young Women of Distinction for 2019. She is one of 8 young ladies out of the 132 Gold Award Girl Scouts this year in our Council to earn this recognition. Bailey was also recently named to this year's Atlanta INtown's "20 Under 20" list, which highlights 20 young people in Atlanta under the age of 20 for their leadership, volunteerism and philanthropy.

Jazlyn Edwards
Winder-Barrow High School



Since the 6th grade, Jazlyn has known that Pharmacy was the career for her. In order to obtain this goal she knew that should have to work hard. As a senior at Winder-Barrow high School, Jazlyn has worked hard to remain an Honor student while taking rigorous academic classes that would prepare her for the competitiveness of Pharmacy school. In addition to these rigorous academics, she has completed three levels of Spanish, Healthcare, and Early Childhood in addition participating in both the Work-Based Learning and Dual Enrollment Programs.

Over the past four years Jazlyn has been very active in both her school and community. She is a the current Captain and four year member of the Varsity Cheer Squad, Spanish Honor Society, Bulldogg Pride (GG stands for extra effort), BETA Club, President of Future Health Professional (HOSA), and President of her Church Youth Group.

In each of these organizations Jazlyn demonstrates honesty, integrity, accountability, creativity, planning, innovative, and leadership skills. Outside of her academics, she works part-time as an Intern at the local Pharmacy. Working in this position has solidified her decision to pursue a career in Pharmacy.

Her managing pharmacist says, “Jazlyn is one of the finest students we have had and will do well in pharmacy school.” In the fall Jazlyn will be attending University of North Georgia while continuing to work in the pharmacy. It is her goal to attend pharmacy school at the University of Georgia and train under her current managing Pharmacist who plans to stick by her side all the way.

Silas Fuller

Marion County High School



Silas trained all summer under his school digital media director and football coaching staff. In addition to his role as a senior and dual-enrolled (high school/college) student, he is also training under his school football coaching staff to become a high school coach. Every Friday night, he is under the lights in his visor and khakis, calling plays, blowing his whistle, and earning the respect of the team for his quick decisions and good judgment.

In late July, his school digital media director was in a terrible car accident. The only person who had fully trained under him was Silas. Without batting an eye, Silas picked up this mantle, making sure the yearbook work has begun, the film crew began production, posters and publications went into print, the Instagram page and web page were taken care of, and many other items of concern were handled. Silas basically became a member of our school's leadership team for a while; his input and knowledge of the day-to-day operations were vital to his school process.

Sarah Lao

The Westminster Schools



Sarah Lao is a sophomore at the Westminster Schools in Georgia. She is a dedicated and passionate concert pianist who has played for over ten years and performed twice at the Weill Recital Carnegie Hall as a Grand and Gold winner of the National Young Artist Showcase Competition. She has also won first place in the International Great Composers Competition Best Schumann Performance and second for the Best Prokofiev Performance. Additionally, Sarah has placed third in the International Enkor Music Competition and first consecutively in the Southeast Young Artist Piano Competition.

At school, she serves as the vice president of the Music Service Corps, visiting hospitals and retirement homes to play music and organizing fundraising concerts such as the Paris on Ponce concert for LGBTQ youth.

Sarah also hopes to bring change to her community as a committee leader of the Gender Equality and Race Forum where she works to organize the #MyFreedomDay campaign, state-wide Lobby Day for sex trafficking, and school discussions.

In addition to piano and activism, Sarah enjoys creative writing, editing for her school literary magazine and serving on the editorial staff of the international literary magazine Polyphony Lit. At Polyphony, she writes detailed specific and general commentary for every submission from high school writers around the world, promoting stronger writer-editor relationships and forming a community devoted to improving students' writing skills in poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. She is the first place winner in Poetry for the 2018 Zo Magazine Teen Media Expo and a 2018-19 national winner for the American High School Poets Just Poetry! Competition. Her work has been published or is forthcoming in the National Poetry Quarterly, the Eunoia Review, the Antiphon Poetry Magazine, the Inflectionist Review, and more.

Essynce Moore
Alpharetta High School



Essynce is an entrepreneur, child's fashion designer/stylist, author, actress, celebrity, motivational speaker, and fashionista that brings a positive vibe to her peers and others. She's been in numerous fashion shows, pageants, karate tournaments and has spoken at numerous conferences and/or workshops.

Essynce Moore started designing clothes at the tender age of 6 with just for fun doodles in her school binder and notepads. Her passion was and still is, to find her own style and to share her creative UPSCALE clothing ideas and styles with youth around the world. Essynce is a "TEEN" that has turned her passion into a business for 2013, with the launch of her official clothing line branded Essynce Couture, LLC with the motto "a child's passion for fashion." Essynce Couture also has a natural body product line for children, tweens, and teens labeled "Wynk" by Essynce Couture. In 2015 Essynce launched Essynce Couture Spa and Boutique EXCLUSIVELY for Children, Tweens, and Teens to give the youth a place of their own to visit and be pampered, inspired, and educated.

In 2016-17 Essynce is in the following movies: Best of 2 Evils, King of Newark, Custody, Darker than Blue – Colin Warner Project, and Maggie’s Plan. She has SHOWCASED at both NYFashion Weeks and Atlanta Kids Fashion Week while also ripping the runway. She’s released her first book 6th Grade Middle School Chronicles in 2015 and her 2nd book 7th Grade Middle School Chronicles in 2016. She has been featured on BET, Verizon Fios News, BlackNews.com, MadameNoire, The Record newspaper, The Epoch Times newspaper, and a host of other news and media outlets.

Essynce has also been awarded 2016 Teenpreneur of the Year by Black Enterprise, as well as, awarded by the City of Passaic with a Proclamation, and awarded by the State of New Jersey – Senate and General Assembly upon the auspicious occasion of the Grand Opening of her business Essynce Couture Spa and Boutique, LLC in 2015 in the City of Passaic. In 2014 she was interviewed and featured on NBC (Channel 4 News), Jeff Foxx of WBLS FM, BuzzFeed, Yahoo, Verizon Fios Channel 1 News, NBC Channel 4 News, she was awarded “2014 Young Emerging Leader” by Alpha Kappa Alpha, she’s been featured in the 2013 TIME for Kids Magazine, Honored 2013 Entrepreneur of the Year by the Vashti School for Future Leaders, she’s been seen on the Uncle Majic Commercial (BET, VH1, Channel 11, etc), HBO (Bored to Death), and has involved herself with a host of other events and projects.

Essynce is the first teen of color to have her book series “Middle School Chronicles” as a mandatory reading and part of some schools curriculum.

Indiana

Aiden Phillips

New Albany High School



Aiden Phillips is senior at New Albany High School in New Albany, IN. Having been a devoted theatre arts student for most of his educational career, Aiden has immersed himself in a variety of way from regularly performing in plays and musicals, taking private lessons, academic courses from Musical Theatre to Music Theory, and playwriting.

Recently, Aiden's original plays were selected to be produced at Actors Theatre of Louisville as a part of the 2017 and 2018 New Voice Young Playwrights Festival. With over 800 submissions each year, Aiden's plays "Prehistoric Problems" and "The Great Battle of Morgan and Grump: A Quest for Witches Rights" were one of just 8 shows each year that were selected to be produced by the professional company at Actors Theatre Louisville.

Iowa

Jade Arnold



Jade joined the Iowa Youth Congress (IYC) during her sophomore year and quickly showed that she has a natural, although hidden, ability to be a leader. During debates on the floor of the Iowa House of Representative for the past 2 year she has shown that while uncomfortable, she has found that she can address 100 of her peers with a confidence that hides her shyness. During this past year she has taken on the role of Chair for the East Region of the IYC and has done an outstanding job.

At Mid-City Jade took the lead in creating our first ever student council and even though she did not win election she organized the election, recruited candidates for the offices and then volunteered to help the student council with their projects. This past year she organized the Student Hunger Drive and did 90% of the work to make it a success. In her future Jade plans on using her outstanding artistic abilities to study art in college with the goal of either becoming a graphic illustrator or an Art Educator. Jade has already completed her High School education and will be an early graduate this January and will be starting classes at Scott Community College immediately after.

Kansas

Blaise Mayes

Wichita West High School



Blaise actively runs the school concession stand with DECA while participating in multiple competitions. He also created West High instrumental music Twitter page. In his spare time, Blaise volunteers at area middle schools teaching instrumental music and assisting with performances. He received several academic & fine arts achievements including dual strand completer at his school in Audio Visual Communication and Instrumental Music.

Seth Walentowski

Wichita West High School



Seth is a driven young man and presented his business plan at Wichita State University. He has developed his own clothing label (Hello), branded it and sources his materials.

Seth has designed and printed a variety of shirts for various clubs at West High and businesses within his community. He has utilized social media to expand his business opportunities. Seth is also able to balance his business with school and another job. He is a ventriloquist. Seth has taken his skills and knowledge with ventriloquism to a part time job at the Dinosaur Park in Derby, where he is one of two puppeteers for the animatronics. In addition, he sells puppets on the side because it is difficult to find the puppets for this endeavor.

Seth high school no longer has an apparel and textile program at the school, so Seth sews all the apparel that is needed throughout the school year. He has overcome social norms and does what he wants despite the fact that no one else is doing it or it might be perceived as emasculating. His self-confidence is great. Seth had difficulties growing up without a father but found role models within his community. He doesn't let anyone tell him a goal is not achievable.

Minnesota

Riley Milliam

Blooming Prairie High School



Riley Milliam is extremely talented and bright in many areas, but mostly in computers. Riley can design websites and program robots. These are some of the coding projects Riley has accomplished: he created a Spanish app that has been professionally published, designed an app that keeps track of points in the Magic card game, he wrote codes to make a drone fly and do other maneuvers, and he created a switch box to make Christmas lights blink to Christmas music.

North Dakota

Adrian Flansburg
Westhope Public School



Adrian is an accomplished designer, welder and machinist. Adrian is being heavily recruited by several tech schools across the nation including WYO Tech and ND State School of Science for his industrial technology knowledge and skills. Adrian has been offered five job opportunities with fully paid on the job tech school training including Doosan, Case IH, John Deere, Miller Industries, and Halliburton from his demonstration of welding, CAD, and IT skills at the National FFA convention. Adrian has been offered an engineering scholarship opportunity to attend Texas A&M in College Station or LSU in Baton Rouge. He is a rare talent and combined with his outstanding personality, rare work ethic, and high moral ethos.

New Jersey
Jordyn Cascone
Health Science Academy



Jordan started her non-profit organization, [Jordyn's Cause 4 Paws](#) when I was 12 years old as my Silver Award project for Girl Scouts.

Jordyn's Cause 4 Paws is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing pet food for the animals of the homebound. Many homebound people qualify for the Meals on Wheels program. It had come to her attention; a growing number of these recipients give their food away to their pets because they can't afford to buy pet food. She has created this program to address their pet's needs.

Jordan organized this program because the companionship of pets plays an important role in the quality of these recipient's lives. Sometimes, their pet may be their only companion. Through this program, Jordan is helping the recipients maintain a healthy diet for their animals. The diet-specific pet food is delivered with the recipients own nutritious meals weekly.

Lauren Williams
Franklin High School



On January 26, 2018, Sixteen-year-old Lauren "Lulu" Williams was viciously assaulted in the school halls by bullies who ripped her wig off and taped her humiliation for social media. In the midst of her shame, Lulu decided to make a powerful statement: Shaving her hair bald to defy her "shamers", and therefore take her POWER back in her own hands. Her story has touched people all over the world; many have come together to show support for Lulu and share the outrage about bullying; including several celebrities, most notably America's Next Top Model Host Tyra Banks (who spoke to LuLu and her Friends via Instagram LIVE). The show has also been featured on news reports as far as the United Kingdom, and discussed on shows such as The Real, New York's Daily Mail, Teen Vogue, USA Today, and on Nashville's Treva and Kevin Show to name a few.

In order to continue to raise awareness, Lulu pursues speaking engagements that will address young people that may be victims of bullying, and raising awareness for teen suicide prevention. She recently had the amazing opportunity to do her first full-length #ShameFree speaking engagement for over 25 inner-city girls with F.I.N.D; Families in Need of Direction.

Her speaking topics include:

- Self esteem
- Bullying
- Inner beauty
- Teen Suicide Awareness

Her upcoming plans include an online teen talk show, scheduled to debut in 2019, and entitled “Inside Homeroom 615™.” The show is designed to be an interactive forum in which to discuss relevant current issues from a teen/young adult point of view, designed to be an interactive forum in which to discuss relevant current issues from a teen point of view. For her work with the #ShameFree initiative and anti-bullying awareness, Lauren recently received the Youth Legacy Award at the 4th annual National Youth Activist Awards in Nashville (July 2018).

For more information about Lulu and her #ShameFree movement visit her at www.iamshamefree.com.

New Mexico

Adrian Melon

Silver High School



Adrian is the NM state champion in SkillsUSA state competition in the categories of job demo, extemporaneous and prepared speech. In 11th grade, Adrian was a state officer for SkillsUSA New Mexico. He won 1st place in collision repair at San Juan College Farmington, NM.

New York

Alexa Boylan

Westbury High School



Alexa plans to pursue a career as a pediatric surgeon. She is working very hard to reach this goal. She's excited about spending this upcoming summer at Tufts University, doing a one-month Medical Leadership Program. She is currently a volunteer at Northwell Hospital in Manhasset, doing patient care and nursing. Alexa enjoys staying busy by working part-time at 'The Space' - a local music venue in Westbury, where she is an usher and also works in their coat room during the colder months. Alexa also travels to Molloy College every other week to participate in a club called Energia where she practices her public speaking. She also spends time once a month at the Westbury Senior Center - as the Treasurer of the Gaval Club (she held the Vice President position last year).

Alexa enjoys doing community service as well; she participated in 'Jack & Jill' at the Westbury Senior Center where she helped seniors for a Martin Luther King Jr. event. She is currently in the A/V Club, the Red Cross Club, and the Westbury High School Swim Team. Her grades are not affected by all of these incredible commitments, as she has been on the Honor Roll consistently, since taking AP classes at Westbury High School. Alexa's greatest struggle was moving into the Westbury School District. Alexa attended private school for the start of her high school career- but had to adjust to a new social climate, schedule, and demands of a public school.

Jeremy Centeno
Enrico Fermi School #17



Jeremy moved to the mainland United States of America with his family from Puerto Rico less than two years ago. Jeremy stands out as an “agent of change” in his school community, putting in the hard work and spreading positive vibes. Jeremy is working very hard to acquire the English language. Jeremy is “beating the odds” as a native speaker of Spanish and a new resident of the U.S. Jeremy has grown so much socially, emotionally, academically in the past two years.

Johnathan Crawford
Edison Career & Technology High School



Johnathan began an unpaid internship last school year at the City of Rochester Equipment Services which aligns with his Automotive Careers CTE class. Johnathan is a NYSAA student and has excelled beyond his teachers expectations.

He has advanced from detailing cars and basic automotive maintenance to working directly (one-on-one) with automotive mechanics servicing police vehicles (brake jobs and oil changes) in the "car shop". Johnathan has received exemplary evaluations and has assimilated to "one of the crew". He is currently under consideration for a full-time, permanent position following graduation. This is an incredible accomplishment for a student identified as having developmental disabilities.

Tiana Fortilus

North Babylon High School



Tiana struggles in school and felt like an under achiever until finding her passion in Culinary Arts. Now that she found her passion her grades have soared. She is a volunteer Explorer at the Wyandanch Wheatley Heights Ambulance Corps. Tiana is a first responder and rides along on emergency calls to assist patients in crisis. She is certified in First Aid, CPR and is a Red Cross Certified WSI swim instructor. Tiana is very clear in her goal to go to college and graduate with a degree in nutrition. After college, she plans to open a fitness center.

Tylor Rotanak Ngourn

World of Inquiry School #58



Tylor started his own business at the age of 16 doing film/video directing and editing, photography, and as a DJ. He has won multiple short film awards and has skills beyond professionals. Tylor was hired as prom DJ last year. His skill set is amazing but his story is the inspiration. Tylor is all self-taught. He started as a school photographer for his school sports teams, transitioned to taking photos at games and filming basketball games. He then took it upon himself to edit the clips to music and added them to YouTube with his school tagged. His school started showing them during spirit week and during pep rallies.

Tylor now works for his school district as a help desk technician in his school. He is the trouble shooter for teachers who are having technology issues in the building. He gets hired to do evening events for teachers - such as set up for play productions and musical events at schools. Tylor is a senior and he runs a tech club this year to teach his peers his trade. The goal is for students to learn how to do some of what Tylor does and his technology legacy will live on!

Prashant Thapa Magar

Rochester Early College International High School



Prashant was a participant in the Rochester Institute of Technology's Future Business Leaders and Entrepreneurs' Program during the summer of 2018. Prashant did a research project on a local business and developed strategies to improve the business' revenue and level of success.

Prashant has also gone to business conferences to help stimulate his growth. He has a mentor who is currently established in the business world. He has developed his own website where he plans to purchase retail in order to sell to the public. Prashant has a bright future ahead of him and he has the enthusiasm and passion to develop a successful business.

Ty-shon Pannell

Central Islip Senior High School



Ty-Shon has worked vigorously on his basketball skills/talent through extreme adversity to raise them to an elite level in which he competes with a ferocious edge far beyond his height. His leadership and performance on the court is measured by his heart to go against the odds and leave it all on the floor.

Ty-Shon has recorded numerous 35pt plus games against top teams and is recognized as an unstoppable scoring machine shooting with limitless range anywhere on court. He was recognized by Newsday thru his abilities giving him a featured article that has been publicly posted on Newsday's sports section. He is also a good academic student taking honors/AP classes and college course classes which he will receive college credit via Farmingdale State College.

Oregon

Collin-Kazu Lewis

Metro East Web Academy



Collin joined the Metro East Web Academy (MEWA) and its Early College program last summer and was able to start at Mt. Hood early. He is taking prerequisites for an associate's degree in pre-medicine, and by the time he completes that he will also receive his high school diploma. Collin-Kazu Lewis is the new Academic Affairs representative for the Associated Student Government here at Mt. Hood Community College. Something that sets Lewis aside from other ASG members is that he is just 15 years old, making him the youngest ASG member.

He joined the ASG this fall and advocates for different academic programs, and he helps students with questions on their education. If students have any issues with their teachers, they can come to him for assistance. So far, Lewis has been focusing on spreading the word on Open Educational Resources (OER), a program where students have access to free and/or low-cost textbooks.

Pennsylvania

Chris Emnire Abygaelle Cadet
Philadelphia High School for Girls



Chris Cadet is a student that many underestimate and do not give enough credit for. She prefers to remain quiet and observe the world around her. Over the summer she participated in a community-based internship that required interns to create a business proposition and execute it. Many interns decided to sell t-shirts that they ordered from custom ink but Chris decided to create an all-natural soap company. She bought the ingredients, set up the social media presence, handled the manufacturing process, and wrote a report on her sales.

Kenneth Coates
Murrel Dobbins High School



Kenneth is aspiring to be a license real estate broker. He wants to return to his community to provide affordable housing. In the fall he will be attending Community College of Philadelphia to earn his Associate Degree and Temple University for his Bachelor's. Kenneth will be majoring in Accounting and Business Administration.

Jermoyah Parkinson
Philadelphia High School for Girls



Jermoyah is a senior at the Philadelphia High School for Girls. Over the last four years, she has been awarded the opportunity to play the harp for many concerts and benefits for the Lyra Society. Jermoyah had the pleasure to participate in the Elizabeth Hainen Harp Colony at the Curtis Institute of Music. Currently, Jermoyah holds the position of International Baccalaureate program Representative where she plans annual alumni reunions.

Outside of school, she is involved in a community-based college access program called Philadelphia Futures where she participates in a book club. Jermoyah is an executive board member at Young Women Rising, a women empowerment organization. In her school, she has been involved in Student Council since sophomore year.

Her passion in life is to: form meaningful connections with individuals to help create a positive lasting change in the world, to advocate and give a voice to those who have been silenced by society. On Jermoyah's free time, she enjoys giving advice and talking about the mysteries of the world. As well as reading novels from all types of genres and discussing in-depth analysis of literary personalities. She has been accepted to attend Bowdoin College in the Fall of 2019.

Rhode Island

Jessica Lopez

Mount Pleasant High School



Jessica's leadership qualities make her a role model to her peers. She has been able to earn college credits from several college classes that she has taken in addition to earning honors in her high school classes. Jessica has also taken the initiative to encourage her peers to "go beyond the classroom" in their achievement goals. She will one day make an outstanding teacher who challenges and encourages her students with passion and understanding.

South Carolina

Nyjelah Corley

Wagener-Salley High School



Nyjelah is a role model for younger girls, teaching them to embrace their uniqueness and to “love the skin they’re in.” She is the living embodiment of compassion, sincerity, and courage. She not only wants the world a better place for everyone, she’s willing to blaze the path. Her teacher’s first impression of Nyjelah was of overwhelming kindness, as she befriended another student that was being bullied for her speech impediment. She believes in beauty of the human spirit and makes it her mission to see that everyone is treated fairly.

To fully understand Nyjelah and her passion, you must first understand the community where she’s from. There are four small towns that makeup Wagener-Salley High School. Each of which is not only very rural but also have a high poverty rate. Because of this, WSHS doesn’t have the same amenities that most schools have. The majority of the students lack internet access at home which not only impedes their learning environment but also limits their access to the outside world.

Living in this community, Nyjelah understands the challenges that the youth face. Her dream is to bring more culture, resources, and hope to this community. She understands the importance of education and decided to help improve the school’s reading scores by writing a book ([PAWN TO THE GAME](#)) that would engage her peers and make them want to read. Nyjelah plans to donate proceeds from the sale of the book to help start community outreach programs that would reinforce the importance of education. True to her character, Nyjelah doesn’t just sit back and wait for change, she goes out and becomes the change. She intends to make sure the future students at WSHS have access to things she did not.

Danielle Edwards
Williston-Elko High



Danielle has attended several mission trips. Her goal is to help others, at any cost! She is thinking about choosing a career in the mission field. She is extremely talented in art. She uses her talent to beautify the school and her town.

Humverto Hernandez
Palmetto High School



Humverto is a four-year career technology student in computer programming, networking & security. Growing up with limited income from his mother, he strived to do his best in academics. He plans to go to Greenville Tech for 2 years in the Computer Technology program. Humverto wants to become a software and game developer. He is willing to dedicate himself towards that goal. Humverto dedication has always been his strongest quality. I'm sure that one day his efforts and unbreakable will along with his industrious mindset will pay off. He will finish in the top 5% of his graduating class.

Karsyn Kellahan
Andrews High School



Karsyn ranked number seven in her senior class. She is an excellent student. Karsyn is very active in school activities and clubs. She helped managed the yearly Toys for Tots school drive with HOSA for the last two years. Karsyn demonstrates empathy for others and genuine compassion. She is active in her church and was a volunteer with Samaritans Purse.

Gabrielle Moree
Andrews High School



Gabrielle is planning to attend Lander College to pursue a nursing degree. She is an active member of HOSA, the National Science Honor Society, the National Honor Society, and the National Art Society. Gabrielle participated in Carolina Orthopedics Medical Mentoring Program; and attended Tideland Hospital Nurses Extraordinary Program.

She volunteered at Georgetown Memorial Hospital last summer. Gabrielle is also active in, her local, Red Cross school blood drives. Gabrielle is an excellent student academically - she is polite, mature, and highly professional when representing the school and herself.

Jonathan Parker
Fort Mill High School



Jonathan has found a passion for the field of medicine, and within the past year and a half has taken great steps to reach his goals. During the summer of 2018, he volunteered in the emergency room at both Piedmont Medical Center and CMC- Pineville through their respective teen volunteer programs logging approximately 60 volunteer hours. These volunteer programs are geared for teens who are looking forward to futures in the medical field.

Jonathan has recently begun participating in the Junior Member Program at River Hills EMS. This program allows students to experience the field of emergency medicine first hand, interact with the patients, and learn to make critical decisions under pressure. In the summer of 2019, Jonathan will continue volunteering at both hospitals and be a Junior Member at RHEMS. He is also looking forward to participating in the Medical Experience Academy in Greenville, SC this summer if accepted into the program.

Jonathan will attend Palmetto Boys State at Anderson University in the summer of 2019. Along with volunteer work, he participates in a number of extracurricular activities and paying jobs as well. Jonathan serves as the Vice President of National Beta Club at Fort Mill High School and is also a member of the chemistry club and Science Olympiad. He has played soccer for Discoveries Soccer Club for eight years.

Madalyn Dacie Smith
Andrews High School



Madalyn is in the top ten of her senior class. She is very active in school extracurricular activities and club including HOSA, FBLA, NHS, NSHS, and NAHS. She demonstrates leadership skills and works well on team projects. Madalyn participates in community service opportunities in school and at her church. She volunteers with Samaritan's Purse and Helping Hands.

Brooke Stevens
Florence High School



Brooke maintains straight A's while taking dual credit college courses. She has already been accepted to college. Brooke organizes the student events at her school as student body president. Brooke volunteers in her district elementary classrooms helping students work on their spelling.

Three years ago, Brooke began her own non-profit company called Pet Prints. She uses her free time to take pictures of homeless animals and then edits and photo shops the images.

Brooke donates her service to local area animal shelters. She is dedicated to help every animal in a shelter find their forever home. Brooke's efforts have paid off in a big way in our local area. Her online pictures have led to an increase adoption rate for grown lab dogs and black dogs, which were the two groups of animals that were at risk. Brooke leads in the classroom, mentors' younger students, volunteers, and runs her own successful business.

Christian Ward
Andrews High School



Christian is a wonderful student and is an excellent leader. She is involved in the schools NJROTC program. Currently, she holds the second in command rank as Executive Officer. Christian is one of the top ten students of her senior class. She is active in Honor Societies, HOSA serves as a project manager for the school's winter blood drive.

Tennessee

Parker David Bowling
Gatlinburg-Pittman High School



Parker is a leader among his peers as is evidenced by his selection to the American Legion Boys' State program, his position as a coach for the Upward basketball program, his participation in the Smoky Mountain Youth Leadership program, and his selection to the Gatlinburg Police Department Leadership Academy. Each of these programs selects the students based on their academic, social, and civic leadership. Parker rises above his peers in each of these categories.

Perhaps the crowning achievements that attest to Parker's abilities and character are his participation in the Tennessee Governor's School for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and in the Tech Savvy Seniors instructional program which he masterminded. In Governor's school he was selected as the team leader directing his peers to research, create, and market a new product. Mixing innovation with social responsibility, his group developed the LIFEStir which would be used to detect date rape drugs in drinks.

Regarding the Tech Savvy Seniors program, Parker astutely observed his grandmother after she purchased her first smartphone. He was her go-to guy for every app, setup, or function. He realized that many senior citizens could benefit from classes on how to operate their phones; thus, he established the program and rendered services to the seniors at the local library. The need for assistance was greater than he anticipated prompting him to extend his hours, all of which were freely given.

Emily Jo Christian

Volunteer Comprehensive High School



Emily served as the SkillsUSA Tennessee State Secretary during the 2017-2018 school year. After being re-elected to her second term, she was chosen to lead the state as President for the 2018-2019 school year. Her duties include chapter visits to high schools in the East Tennessee Area, speeches to crowds from 200 to 3000 people, facilitating workshops to teachers and high school students, serving as a camp counselor, attending monthly meetings in Nashville, and planning events for the state of Tennessee.

Emily is a National Statesman Award Recipient. She received this award for SkillsUSA knowledge, government/civic awareness, and advocating for Career and Technical education to Senator Lamar Alexander, Senator Bob Corker, and Representative Marsha Blackburn at the 2017 Washington Leadership Training Institute.

She was chosen to represent her school at Tennessee American Legion Auxiliary Volunteer Girls State in the summer of 2018. In addition, she was elected mayor of her city. Emily is a SkillsUSA Tennessee Community Service Silver Medalist for a community service project involving seatbelt awareness on school campus. She received an award for taking the ACT Workkeys Exam and scoring in the range for Silver Level.

Zachary Clark
Northeast High School



Zachary has come from a hard upbringing. He was hanging around the wrong group of friends who led him to legal trouble. Today, he is studying criminal justice, enjoys football, engages in great peer relationships, and is working extremely hard to stay out of trouble and graduate high school. According to his teacher, "his grades are wonderful and he has so much potential". "I am grateful to have him in my class and to see him progress in life".

Tara Davis
Bradley Central High School



Tara has a 100 average in A/V Production I, A/V Production II & A/V Production III and the Applied Arts Practicum. For the past two years as Director in BCHS VOX News, Tara has been extremely helpful to everyone involved as she keeps everything perfectly organized and outlined. Everyone knows the details based on what she has laid out to accomplish for the 30-minute newscast. This TV program is provided each weekday to the Chattanooga region and is created by the students in the TV studio. Tara is also in a leadership role as the Producer for BCHS Bear Network by handling the audio and video setup.

She runs the A/V equipment during each of the more than 100 athletic and local events that we broadcast each year. She has handled these roles with excellence over the past three years.

Tara has also served in various roles on improvement committees and the community service projects that are carried out such as the “Roll and Read” event held at the Cleveland Greenway. She has competed in the BCHS Chapter of SkillsUSA at the state level and national level. She is a Gold Medalist for Broadcast News Production competition as the team director at the SkillsUSA 2018 Tennessee Conference and placed 14th overall at Nationals. As a senior this, she will lead her team to the Tennessee SkillsUSA State Conference and compete once again in Broadcast News Production.

Axi Erickson
Unaka High School



Axi has taken a consistent, active role in the betterment of her school and community. She has contributed to the planning and development of several community service programs such as Ranger Pride-Clothing Stride and The Ranger Backpack program; fundraise for UNICEF and find the time to volunteer at events hosted by Elizabethton Kiwanis Club. Axi is currently the vice-president of the Unaka High School Key Club and a member of the HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America) club. Last year, Axi placed at the regional HOSA competition representing Upper East Tennessee region through her extemporaneous health poster. She is a true leader and a scholar. Axi has juggled the demands of rigorous classes, participated in numerous extracurricular activities at school, and participated in a significant number of service-related functions outside of school.

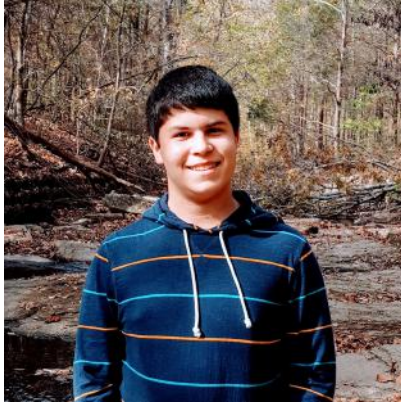
Aden Klein

Gatlinburg-Pittman High School



Aiden is a leader. He naturally gravitated toward the school's tutoring program where he is the most popular tutor. He does not just explain a concept; he works with the students to ensure that they can take the concepts through to the next unit. He takes this commitment so seriously that he has created a website for the tutoring program with resources and an interactive element for students who may be too embarrassed or simply lack the time to attend personally. He is such an amiable young man that his peers looked up to him and are proud to have him as a member of their class. Aden's intended career path will take him into public service, where he will do much good because he has a heart laden with a desire to better others' condition.

Jariel Jimenez-Lopez
Rossview High School



Jariel is self-taught and very knowledgeable in technology and computers. He has a contagious personality and will step up to do whatever is asked of him with enthusiasm.

In addition, he is well-informed in Windows and Linux systems, fluent in English and Spanish, Basic HTML5, CSS3 Skills, Skilled with hardware and software, has basic customer service skills, and basic photography skills. He steps up to help the students who are having difficulty solving problems, i.e. coding, computer issues, etc.

Mary-Beth Mangrum
Bradley Central High School



Mary-Beth is a Lead Anchor on BCHS VOX News, the evening news program which airs weekdays throughout the Chattanooga region. Her substantial charisma in delivering the news is contagious within the TV studio. Mary-Beth is known throughout the community for being among the very best at what she does each day. As an influential personality, she also takes time to go of her way when called upon to help with community service projects.

Mary-Beth is also an aspiring actress and evening news anchor at a major market TV station or news network.

Her work as a news anchor may be viewed online at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGbaWm-lpmp5N273BNOaQUw/videos>.

Caleb Ashton McCarter
Cocke County High School



Caleb McCarter has known since he was in elementary school that he wanted to be a lawyer. Caleb is a junior at Cocke County High School where he chose law enforcement as his Program of Study. He has excelled in all of his classes, having a Weighted GPA of 4.12. He goes above and beyond to make sure he completes any assignments given to him. Caleb has even taken classes during the summer to make sure he completes anything which may help him when he graduates, and has completed several Dual Enrollment Classes through Walter's State Community College.

Caleb is actively involved in many organizations including Key club, FBLA, Beta Club, Student Council, Mu Alpha Theta, National Honors Society, and SkillsUSA where he has competed in the Crime Scene Investigation Category.

He takes an interest in all things related to the criminal justice field, whether it is job shadowing an officer, or visiting the courtroom to have a better understanding of how important the title of lawyer is in the criminal justice field. Caleb is a student that every teacher enjoys having in the classroom.

Lance Moore

Morristown Hamblen High School East



Lance is a true leader that has an amazing work ethic and drive to succeed. He is overly wise and mature for his age. It is reported that he manages a highly successful poultry business. He works all aspects of the business, and is fully in charge of all operations, even as a full-time student. Lance has stepped up to the leadership role as our FFA president, and is a true asset to the organization. He currently works for a local funeral home and is already serving the needs of families and deals with many things that most could not handle.

Lance plans to be a funeral director and continue with the poultry industry. He realizes that being self-employed comes with many opportunities, but also a lack of other benefits. Having both of these career sets allows this young man to have the best of both worlds, and have more peace of mind with the ever changing poultry industry. Speaking with Lance for even a few brief minutes, you realize he is different than most of today's youth. He has a drive for success.

Zack Oliver
Hampton High School



Zack is an exemplary student-scholar, dependable, mature, cognizant, as well as a person of tremendous character with significant leadership skills. He is an active contributor in his Architecture and Engineering Design class. He is active in all phases of school and community life, taking advantage of any opportunity that can better his and his fellow citizen's future. Zack is a member of the National Honor Society, SkillsUSA, TSA (Technology Student Association), Student Council, Beta Club, and East Tennessee State University's Upward Bound Program.

When Zack is not touring local industries or postsecondary schools, he is committed to being a first place winner in any competition. He is the lead designer in the 2018 inaugural and 2019 East Tennessee Battle of the Builds competition hosted by the Johnson City Home Builders Association at East Tennessee State University.

In addition, he is the lead team member and drafter for completing several community projects such as: Happy Valley Elementary School Evacuation Routes, Roan Mountain, TN landfill design, Single Engine Airplane Glider for Veterans of TN. Zack is the President Hampton High School SkillsUSA Chapter, TSA Chapter, FBLA Chapter Student Council Chapter and is the Lead Editor of Hampton High School Yearbook.

Zachary Peake
Johnson County High School



Zach serves as our Student Council President while taking part in various community service and leadership activities. Through his dedicated involvement and positive contributions Zach is a recipient of the Student Council Standards of Excellence Award. In addition to Student Council, Zach displays leadership and character in the Johnson County High School HOSA program where he was the Vice-President last year and the current serving reporter. Zach has competed in HOSA competitions, and his hard work was displayed state-wide when Zach competed in the Dental Terminology category at the Tennessee State Leadership Conference. As a part of Zach's concentration in the Health Science program at JCHS, he will graduate this spring having already obtained his CNA as well as his EKG Technician certification.

Outside of school, Zach works for the Johnson County Youth Basketball League as the official clock keeper. Additionally, Zach was chosen as one of two seniors to be a part of Johnson County Leadership through the Chamber of Commerce. Needless to say, Zach maintains a busy schedule, but he never misses a beat regardless of what he is doing.

Zach is also an excellent scholar and deserves special recognition as Zach's curriculum is very rigorous. Zach has found great success in taking honors, dual enrollment and Advanced Placement courses. Through these academic opportunities, Zach will have earned enough college credits to almost be at sophomore status.

Mario Pukl
Fairview High School



Mario is completing his Associate's Degree in Engineering Systems Technology from Columbia State Community College at the same time he is earning his high school diploma. He will receive both simultaneously at his high school graduation ceremony. By completing over 60 college credit hours while also completing high school course requirements, working part time at his internship in a related field, and participating in extracurricular activities (he has been a multi-sport athlete in high school and a three time state-champion wrestler and team captain).

Mario is an outstanding example of a hardworking, dedicated individual who lets nothing stand in his way to achieve his goals. He is a first-generation student and comes from a home that epitomizes the values of determination, commitment and the utmost respect for the power of education.

Gideon Ratcliff
Bradley Central High School



Gideon Ratcliff is an exceptional student. He is a four year Cambridge Scholar with a perfect 4.0 grade point average at Bradley Central High School. He has been part of several team projects during his tenure at BCHS some of which include; Technical Director of the BCHS Bear Network broadcasts for 4-years, President of the BCHS A/V Club, Floor Director for BCHS VOX News daily newscast, Audio Engineer for BCHS Rockband, and several awards for best in category at the annual Bradley Film Festival. Gideon is active in the BCHS chapter of SkillsUSA as a competitor and as a service project participant and leader. You will find videos of broadcasts he has directed for BCHS Bear Network online <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIFIPG6HaiiFn1o20oyx7eQ/videos>:

Morgan Stence
Bradley Central High School



Morgan Stence is an outstanding student with many attributes of excellent character. She is a wonderful student at Bradley Central High School and has proven herself many times over. She plays a vital role in helping her teacher develop news content each day as the Producer for BCHS VOX News.

Morgan has worked in this role during her junior and now in her senior year at BCHS. Morgan's leadership is vital to the overall aspect of creating a 30-minute newscast on TV each weekday for the Chattanooga region.

She is also active in community service projects such as "Roll and Read" on the Cleveland Greenway and as a student competitor in Audio Production for the BCHS Chapter of SkillsUSA. Morgan has taken on numerous tasks in the classroom which showcase her talents in conceptualizing a project, producing, editing and working in a group of peers to complete an assignment under a given deadline. She has a wonderful attitude and projects her charisma well within a group. As a proven leader, she is not afraid of a challenge.

Alexis Valentine

Gatlinburg-Pittman High School



Alexis, a.k.a. Batgirl, is a stellar conservationist and bat enthusiast. At the age of eleven, she was already entrenched in chiropterology, the analysis of white-nose syndrome that plagues the animal, and the effects of the disease on the ecological system of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP). Alexis has continued her research, assisted the park service with mist and harp netting, acoustic data monitoring, and echolocation calls.

Shortly after entering high school, Alexis was called upon to lead a nationwide streaming seminar wherein elementary students logged on to ask her questions about her research as well as garner information about their own research. Furthermore, Alexis serves as a regular guest speaker at the Gatlinburg Rotary Club, the Gatlinburg Garden Club, and the GSMNP annual Wildflower Pilgrimage Bat Walk. Additionally, other appearances include the 22nd annual Southeastern Bat Diversity Network and Mammal Colloquium in Asheville NC, and the Gatlinburg Elks Lodge. Each of these events affords Alexis the platform to present her research and create awareness of the invaluable functions that bats hold in the environment. Moreover, as if that is not enough, Alexis is a featured writer for the *Mountain Press*, *Ranger Rick Jr. Magazine*, and *Bat Magazine*. She is also the co-author of *"Roary the Hoary and Her Bat Week Story."*

Unique in her pursuits, she is sought out and sought after in the field of science, but all of the acclaim and attention she receives do not deter her from her intense academic exploration. As a result, she presented her work at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville North American Society for Bat Research, earned the Governor's Award for Wildlife Science Excellence, and received the 2018 Youth Conservationist of the year award from the Tennessee Wildlife Federation, placed 4th in the 2018 Junior Science and Humanities Symposium. Her crowning moment thus far was her second-place finish in the 14th Annual Federal Forest Service International Junior Foresters competition held in Moscow, Russia. Out of the 40 international competitors, Alexis shone as brightly as the star that she is.

Texas

Cyndi R. Adams
Allen High School



Cyndi has always been a self-confident, self-aware hard-working student. She loves math and science and has aspirations to pursue a dental/medical degree and eventually open her own business in Orthodontic Therapy. She is also trained and continuously developing in sign language and enjoys being able to communicate with people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Cyndi also participates in many heartfelt community service activities which includes serving food at the Boys and Girls Club Plano, TX every year for their Annual Giving Thanks Celebration. She has received many awards for her leadership, hard work and positive attitude. She received the 2017 National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists Award of Excellence. She is a current member of the Health Science Clinical Program where she participates in clinical rotations at a Plano, TX nursing home twice a week.

Lizzie Myers
Prosper High School



Lizzie extracurricular activities include the debate, theatre, and student council. Lizzie has already won brackets in TX high school debates and has become a Varsity Debater for Prosper High School during her freshman year. As well as debate, she recently performed in Prosper High School's production of Seussical; she is the Class of 2022's Treasurer for the 2018-2019 school year.

She's already taking two AP courses as a freshman, AND is currently enrolled in Honors Precalculus (a junior/senior level class) and keeping an A. Next year she plans on taking AP Statistics and AP Calculus AB as a sophomore! Lizzie is a SCRIPPS Spelling Bee regional finalist, Noetic Math Competition Honor Roll, and UFRSD District Awards in Spanish, Writing, Advanced Mathematics, and Academic Excellence. Lizzie started an Instagram business with a thousand followers.

Virginia

Hannah Pleet

Osbourn Park High School



Hannah has a remarkable interest in biomedical science. She is a current student in Biomedical Innovations class at Osbourn Park High School. She brings a wealth of knowledge to the class from her volunteer experiences as an EMT with Montgomery County, Maryland First Aid Unit. She has a true passion for the industry.

Ryan Post
Woodbridge Senior High School



Ryan is an entrepreneur. He has created a Photography business called [DMV Dreams](#). Ryan started the business in the spring of 2018. He currently has obtained seven sponsors and is in negotiations with three additional companies. His business originally focused on sports and vintage cars and has recently expanded to sports to include the WSHS football and basketball teams.

Joyci Urias
Potomac Senior High School



For the past two years, during "pre-season" football practices in August, Joyci has volunteered to attend and assist her teacher with providing heat injury prevention strategies as well as supervising rehabilitation exercises to injured/recovering student-athletes. Joyci's desire to help others can be seen in her choice of part time employment.

Instead of applying for jobs at the mall or fast food locations, she sought out and secured a position with "Kumon Math and Learning Center." When I asked why, she stated that she likes teaching other kids how to read and learn, and gets a lot of satisfaction from that job. "Helping others" is one characteristic about her that makes her one of the most self-less teenagers that have ever known or had as a student.

West Virginia

Jayme Lantz

Buckhannon-Upshur High School



Jayme has created various documents in the Digital Buccaneers Simulated Workplace. She has created a menu that is being used at a new business opening in our community. Through this process, she was required to send professional emails and act like a designer, with her client being the owner of the business. Jayme communicates and creates in a very professional manner.

Jayme has dedicated many hours of her personal time to create products that benefits a community business. She is a hard worker and has dedicated many hours of community service selling items for a Breast Cancer Awareness fundraiser - in which the school was able to raise \$16,000. Jayme created some of the stickers that were sold, making a special pink ribbon picture - and volunteered many hours through the Youth Leadership Club. Overall, Jayme is a hardworking student that dedicates hours of her personal time to better her school and community.