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WHO

The Maryland Commission for Women
Cordially Invite You to Attend



WHAT

○ The Women of Tomorrow Awards Ceremony



WHEN

○ Wednesday, May 13, 2009
M 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.



WHERE

○ Miller Senate Office Building
M Presidents Conference Room, West
E 11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401



WHY

○ To Honor The First Place Winners
& Honorable Mentions

- Kiauna Nickole Freeman, Charles County, Matthew Henson Middle School - 8th Grade
- Natalie Brosh, Harford County, Patterson Mill Middle School - 7th Grade
- D'ymond Shantyl Dantzler, Baltimore County, Randallstown High School School - 9th Grade
- Kelly Ann Marx, Worcester County, Stephen Decatur High School - 9th Grade
- Jasmine Adams, Calvert County, Northern High School - 12th Grade
- Valerie Caplan, Baltimore County, George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology - 12th Grade

RSVP to Kenya Johnson at the Maryland Commission for Women by May 12, 2009
By phone (410) 767-3049 or email kjohnso7@dhr.state.md.us

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



2009 Women of Tomorrow Recipients

11-12 Grade Honoree



Jasmine Adams of Dunkirk, Maryland, is a 12th grade student at Northern High School who is ranked in the top 1% of her class. She is passionate about leadership through service, and speaking up for the silent. She aspires to become a lawyer, politician and the President of the United States. Her current mission is to make the academic environment a rewarding and enriching one for her peers. She thrives on communicating the ideas and opinions of students to the adults who shape their educational experience. She serves as the President of the National Honor Society, Editor-in-Chief of the 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). Jasmine made history in 2007 when she was voted the Student Member on the Board of Education for Calvert County. She was 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 the members of the Maryland State Board of Education, lobbyists and politicians. In 2008 she was voted by her peers as one of two finalists for the Maryland State Student Member of the Board of Education. Jasmine is active in her community as a result of several appointments by politicians, school administrators and community leaders. Her appointments include student member for a special task force that studied and rendered a solution on the subject concerning students with multiple suspensions, student member on the Maryland Youth Advisory Committee, student representative for Northern High School on the Calvert Advisory Committee.

Jasmine is dedicated to Peters United Methodist Church where she utilizes other talents. She is the director of the step team, and a lead dancer on the liturgical dance team. In March, 2009 she was certified as a Jr. Lay Speaker in the Baltimore Washington Conference. In addition she renders the children's sermon on a quarterly basis.

She is a charismatic, yet collected individual with dynamic speaking, writing, and performing abilities. Adults who work with her resound that she is a poised and articulate young lady who portrays maturity beyond her years. She has the respect and admiration of her peers and is an inspiration to many. She is diligent in honing her communication skills by attending leadership workshops and conferences offered all over the United States. She wakes up each day knowing that if she does her part, God will take of the rest. Jasmine lives by a quote written by Marianne Williamson:

“Our greatest fear is not that we are inadequate, but that we are powerful beyond measure.” She allows her light to shine so that others may flare the same beautiful ray.

11-12 Grade Honorable Mention



Valerie Caplan is the exemplar of Carver Center'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 and service towards others. She inspires hope in others with her cheerful, smiling demeanor, and appreciativeness.

Valerie is active in all facets of life at Carver Center. 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. Valerie 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 Valerie 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.

Valerie is a role model and leader for other students. Since her sophomore year, Valerie has participated in the Model United Nations club. Her work in this club involves researching a country as well as writing a country paper and representing Carver Center as a delegate to the New York national conference. At this conference, Valerie speaks about world issues to fellow student delegates who then work together to develop possible solutions. Valerie is the president of the National Honor Society; secretary of the Student Government Association and of the Key Club; staff member of the literary arts magazine, newspaper, and yearbook. 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. Through this position Valerie is the voice of the students and she affects change that directly impacts instruction for the students at Carver.

Valerie is a volunteer at St. Vincent's Center, which provides residential treatment to abused children. This year Valerie 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 of Crohns and Colitis at Johns Hopkins Hospital and the University of Maryland Medical systems.

Valerie is an outstanding student who is respected by her faculty and her peers. Valerie truly leads a purposeful life and it motivates her in all she does. She has been a constant source of pride to Carver Center.

9-10 Grade Honoree



D'YMOND SHANTYL DANTZLER was born in Columbia, Maryland on March 6, 1994 to Darnell Dantzler and Simone Byrd. D'ymond is the only grandchild of Deacon Sammy and Mrs. Peggy Jones Byrd of Owings Mills, Maryland. As a young child, she was curious, overly intelligent and a delightful gift from God.

D'ymond 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 make herself known not only in her school but her community as well. With a natural gift of singing, D'ymond 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 in honor of Black History Week. Moreover, in March of 2001 at the age of seven, D'ymond received a rousing standing ovation for her portrayal (singing and dancing) of Dorothy from "*The Wiz*" as she "*eased on down the road*" during a community-wide talent show.

That same year, saw D'ymond helping her church to raise money to aid in the purchase of property for a learning center. To that end, D'ymond sought monetary assistance from the community at-large and as an end result, raised over \$3,000. On June 24, 2001, her church crowned her Little Miss Rising Sun for the funds she raised in the name of the church.

During D'ymond's tenure in school, she 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. Since grade three, D'ymond has been on the honor roll for every quarter.

In late 2008, D'ymond co-founded a praise and mime group called *A Spiritual Inspiration*. Since its inception, *A Spiritual Inspiration* has performed for sororities, churches, schools, public service events such as Juneteeth Day and an eclectic array of private functions. As well, D'ymond is a member of the marching band, *Randallstown Hoops* and *D.R.E.A.M., the second generation dance team* all at Randallstown High School, where she is a freshman majoring in Mass Communications. D'ymond also is a member of the *First County Community Recreation Band 'N Full Motion* in Woodlawn, Maryland.

A member of Rising Sun First Baptist Church of Baltimore County all of her life, D'ymond believes in the scripture found in 1 Timothy 4:11-12: ***"Don't let anyone think little of you because you are young. Be their ideal; let them follow the way you teach and live; be a pattern for them in your love, your faith and your clean thoughts."*** (Living Bible)

9-10 Grade Honorable Mention



Kelly Ann Marx attends Stephen Decatur High School in Berlin, Maryland. As a freshman she serves as secretary for 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 Principals List for receiving all A's on her report card. Her superior essay skills awarded her with the honor of a Trip to U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville Alabama. She is treasurer for her church's youth fellowship group and a member of the Ocean Pines Children's Players Theater group. Kelly currently holds the honor of being one of the Worcester County, Maryland Young Women of Tomorrow Award recipients. She also earned 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, Cadette 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. She is currently working on her Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award.

7-8 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 as member of Student Council, the Chorus, the Basketball Team and the Drama Club, where she played a 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 the local church and community. She is a dedicated member of Choose Life Church Ministries, where she gracefully serves as a committed member of the Dance Ministry, and Youth Council of YES-TO-LICJ (Youth Effectively Striving to Obtain Life in Christ Jesus) youth ministry. The primary purpose of YES-TO-LICJ is to spiritually and naturally equip the youth with the necessary knowledge and tools to seek and save other youth through their witness and example in their schools, communities, and homes. As Youth Minister, Kiauna always exhibits a standard of leadership and a willingness to learn and teach. Her character, conduct and commitment for achieving is always present and an example to her peers.

Kiauna's pursuit of academic excellence has afforded her the ability to have always maintained honor roll status and she currently has an impressive 4.0 grade point average in a Scholars Choice of Study (enrichment courses). While attending William B. Wade elementary school, she was the recipient of the United States Presidents 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.

Kiauna knows that leadership starts within. She displays such humility that earns the respect of others. Kiauna is an inspiring leader and a role model for students and adults alike. She encourages her peers to participate in school activities. Her leadership abilities in the classroom, on the basketball court, in the church and community are uncontested as she leads by example. Kiauna shows drive, energy, determination, self-discipline, willpower, and nerve. She sees what she wants and goes after it while setting the example for others to follow. Kiauna's innate ability to become a leader versus a follower has developed her into one of the most popular students at school as she has earned the respect of many.

7-8 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. Natalie firmly believes that children requiring medical attention deserve to have 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 the 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 and Distinguished Honor Rolls, and was recently invited to join the National Junior Honor Society. At school Natalie participates in Theatre Society where she 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 for 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*. In elementary school she served as Student Council Vice President and Newspaper Editor. Natalie received the Student Achievement Award from the Bel Air Town Commissioners, the President's Award for Educational Excellence, and the Good Citizen Award. She participates in the Parent Teachers Association Reflections Program and 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. She serves as a liturgist for her church where she is completing her Confirmation. She has been swimming competitively with the Bel Air Aquatic Club for 7 years. She swims 4 days per week and works for personal best times at swim meets. Her cooperativeness, kindness, and camaraderie with her teammates have twice earned her the Coach's Award. She was also named the "Most Inspirational Swimmer" on her team. Natalie has received piano instruction for 7 years and truly enjoys performing. Natalie's recital performances have earned her high marks at the Maryland Federation of Music Clubs event and at the Harford County Piano Teacher's Festival for a number of years.

Although she has faced many challenges, Natalie prefers to focus on the things she can do instead of the things she cannot. Natalie continues to be a shining star and demonstrate that everyone can pursue their dreams and goals and make significant contributions to their communities.