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The 2004 Women of Tomorrow Selection Committee

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The Maryland Commission For Women

Presents the

2004 Women of Tomorrow Awards Ceremony & Reception

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

The Maryland Commission for Women is a Commission of the Department
of Human Resources (DHR)

The Hon. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor of Maryland
The Hon. Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor of Maryland
The Hon. Christopher J. McCabe, Secretary, Department of Human
Resources

2004 Women of Tomorrow Awards Ceremony

Welcome & Introductions

Brenda Dandy

Maryland Commission for Women, Vice Chair

Carmen Pratt

Executive Coordinator for the Governor's Commissions

Claudia Morrell

Director of the Center for Women & Information Technology
University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus

Barbara A. Robinson

Star, President, CEO

Introduction of Selection Committee

Ikeita Cantu Hinojosa

Maryland Commission for Women, Commissioner

Introduction of Honorees

Deborah Avens

Maryland Commission for Women, Commissioner

Closing Remarks

Ikeita Cantu Hinojosa

Maryland Commission for Women, Commissioner

Reception to Follow

Commissioners

Randa Hudome, Chair

Brenda Dandy, Vice Chair

Deborah Avens

Cristy Bach Yeutter

Naomi Benzil

Roseann Bridgman

Mary Burkholder

Linda Busick

Ikeita Cantu Hinojosa

Juana Clark

Ossie Clay

Kathleen Frampton

Carey Goryl
Luisa Heredia-Sauseda
Barbara Heyman
Patricia Kirby
Cynthia Leppert
Lucia Nazarian
Dorothy Roller
Kathleen Schafer
Nancy Slepicka
Sharon Wong

programs and activities concerning women, addressing critical problems facing women, recommending methods of overcoming discrimination against women, encouraging women to become politically active, and securing appropriate recognition of women's accomplishments and contributions to the State. The Commission has the full cooperation of all executive departments and agencies of the State in the performance of its duties.

Vision

All Maryland women have full social, political, and economic equality.

Mission

The Maryland Commission for Women advises government, advances solutions, and serves as a statewide resource to expand social, political, and economic opportunities for all women.

Maryland Commission for Women

The Maryland Commission for Women (MCW), created in 1965 and established as an independent agency by an act of the Maryland General Assembly in 1971, is a 24-member diverse group of citizens appointed by the Governor from persons interested in the improvement of the status of women. Members are appointed to terms of four years. As mandated by Maryland statute, the Commission has the responsibility of studying and reviewing the status of women, serving as a statewide clearinghouse of information about

2004 Women of Tomorrow Honorees

GRADES 6 ~ 8

**First Place
Erica Jackson**

Ernest Everett Just Middle School,

Prince George's County Public Schools

Honorable Mention

*Rachel Harbarger &
Claire Baldi*

Trinity School, Howard County

GRADES 9 ~ 10

First Place

Victoria Moore

Salisbury School, Wicomico County

Honorable Mention

Michelle Bernard

Easton High School, Talbot County

GRADES 11 ~ 12

First Place

Ashley Howeth Gunter

Worcester Preparatory School, Worcester County

Honorable Mention

Shawtair Thompson

Dundalk High School, Baltimore County

6th – 8th Grade, Honoree

Ernest Everett Just Middle School

Erica Jackson is one of 58 students who passed the test for the Charles Flowers Mathematics Technology

Program. She ranks 15th out of 250 Ernest Everett Just Middle School students who took the test in January 2004. Erica's GPA places her in the top 50 of 1,100 students in the school. Erica plans and coordinates the Reading Writing Lab, Poetry Night, Read-A-Thon, and the Read to Lead Program. Her work has motivated others, including boys in the Gentlemen's Association who started their own literature activities (i.e., Poetry Jam). Erica has inspired students in the special education resource room to start a Reading Rockets Program. In addition, she also tutors students in the special needs department, participates in the peer-mentoring program, is a leader of the Samaritan's Club, National Junior Honor Society, Students Against Smoking, and National Society of Black Engineers.

Erica is an inspiring future Maryland leader. She defines a leader as: "Pulling up the files of his/her story, by changing a small portion of the world through courage and using the lenses of humankind. Everyone is a leader in some way – whether home, school, at work, driving a car, on the bus, or in the grocery store....we all have a Heart"

Ashley Newman
Kathleen O'Neill

Aderonke Olaleye
Opia Ishioma
Morgan Otway
Amanda Partington
Rachel Pologe
Shawneka Ponder
Devin Reaves
Carly Reinking
Kristen Rice-Jones
Rachel Richardson
Allison Robillard
Satinae Robinson
Elizabeth Rosenberg
Amanda Ross
Renee Rowe
Samantha Rush
Ana Sarmiento
Gabriella Schiro
Ariel Schlosser
Andrea Schuck
Ashley Smith
Laketa Spicer
Temekia Taylor
Shawtair Thompson
Ria Travers
Katherina Timmer
Jou Waih Lau
Anna Weaver
Samantha Weis

Lori Wiles
Delta Williams
Amber Yeatman
Laura Fravel
Victoria Fulford
Briana Gapsis
Natasha Gramby
Ashley Gunter
Amberlyse Guzman
Aubree Hall
Amanda Hamilton
Jennifer Hamlet
Rachel Harbarger
Ranisha Harris
Jessica Harris
Domenek Hawkins
Lauren Henkel
Catherine Hess
Laura Hewins
Sarah Holler
Meghan Holly
Funmilola Irekoya
Erica Jackson
Rebecca Jimenez
Veena Kadam
Jenny Kreiger
Angela Manglitz
Lindsay Matt
Kelly McNiff

Ericka Micciche
Aria Miles
Lauren Miller
Andrea Miller
Allison Miller
Ashleigh Mills
Victoria Moore

6th – 8th Grade, Honorable Mention

Trinity School

Rachel Harbarger maintains an “A” average and is awarded the highest academic honor each marking period – “The Principal’s List”. Rachel volunteers in the library and is very active in the choir and drama programs. Rachel works with her church in serving dinners at a homeless shelter and participates in “Christmas in April”. She also finds time to fix up homes for those less fortunate.

Rachel defines a leader as: “Someone who is always responsible and positive to set examples for others. They go out of their way to do something a little extra to set the standards high. Whenever a leader sees something that could be improved or see someone that needs help, they take care of it. Leaders are good and kind and are always there to call on.”

Rachel Harbarger and Claire Baldi have won this honor together for their hard work in academics,

leadership and community services. They started the “Jewelry Sale for Cancer,” a charity event where all profits go to the American Cancer Society. They design, make and sell their earrings, pins, bracelets, necklaces and key chains. Rachel and Claire donated ten inches of their hair to the Cancer’s Foundation’s “Locks of Love” program, which makes wigs for people who have lost their hair from radiation treatment and chemotherapy.

6th – 8th Grade, Honorable Mention

Trinity School

Claire Baldi maintains an “A” average and is awarded the highest academic honor each marking period – “The Principal’s List”. Claire volunteers in the library and is very active in the choir and drama programs. She has a blue belt in Hupkwondo – a Korean martial art. She has many interests, from being a chef to being a member of the Footprints Dance Studio.

Claire defines a leader as: “A leader doesn’t have to be the president of student council. Certainly, a president of any club or organization is a leader, but leadership comes in forms other than that of a position. A leader is a person who presents constructive choices to herself and others. A leader acts and speaks in a way that makes her a role model to younger girls. A leader is courageous and confident. She has opinions that she

shares strongly, but not condescendingly or harshly. She isn't perfect; no one is, but a leader can admit her mistakes and accept them as learning experiences. A leader is a strong person."

We would like to thank all the exceptional girls' nominated for this award. You have accomplished a lot in your life thus far; you have the world in front of you. Believe in yourself.

Amelia Aquino
Ashley Anderson
Sahar Aslani
Claire Baldi
Alexa Barber
Brooke Barber
Laura Bardman
Emily Bostic
Michelle Bernard
Rebecca Berg
Jasmine Berry
April Binick

Sarah Blackowicz
Linae Braxton
Jessica Brockmeyer
Kimberly Brown
Kukia Burroughs
Brielle Catalan
Lauren Chircus
Chelsea Citro
Bianca Cole
Christine Collins
Katherine Colonna
Holly Crowe
Rachel Cylus
Lauren Danker
Gretchen Davis
Ashlie Davis
Shannon Draper

*I want to be a leader
One remembered in history
For her accomplishment and victories
For her knowledge and her philosophy*

*I want to be a leader
To make a difference in the world
Doing something revolutionary
Paving yet another way for us girls.*

*I need to be a leader
So they can say “without her, that wouldn’t have
been”
So I can change the present day
And be proclaimed fearless, courageous, a heroine.*

Ciara M. Coleman
Deer Park Middle Magnet School

9th –10th Grade, Honoree

Salisbury School

Victoria Moore is a passionate and dedicated sophomore student. Her pursuit of excellence extends beyond her high academic achievements. She has started her own non-profit foundation called “Building Schools, Building Lives,” which offers educational

opportunities to children to help them escape the cycle of poverty. As a board member of the Youth Foundation of the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, she raises funds for grants as well as reviews and awards grants for youth programs in a tri-county area. In her leadership role as chairperson of the service committee for her class, Victoria has successfully executed a number of projects- for the class and the entire school- that target the immediate community and the world at large. An active member of her church youth group, she has done mission work for the last three years building and repairing homes in rural communities and feeding the urban homeless in New York City. She believes that gaining an understanding of other cultures helps to maintain peace. Victoria is a delegate to the Ivy League Model United Nations, a past student ambassador for People to People, and a host to Italian and German foreign exchange students. She will participate in a four-week language immersion study and community service project in Costa Rica this summer. A talented writer and performer, Victoria is a published author and a recipient of state and regional awards for her poems and short stories. She has sung and performed in school, church, community, and university productions. Active in sports as well as the arts, Victoria has played on school and community soccer, swimming and lacrosse teams. She also participated in Maryland Summer Study for the Gifted and Talented

and the Penn State University Pre-college Program, as well as completed coursework at Salisbury University.

Victoria is an inspiring future Maryland leader. She states that: “Leadership is a heavy burden, but it yields the satisfaction of knowing that one has done her part to enhance the future in some fashion. A leader’s most important attribute is the ability to remain true to her personality and purpose.”

NOTES

Ashley is an inspiring future Maryland leader. She defines a leader as: “Not just one who gives orders or makes decisions, but a caring individual who does not follow the crowd. Many great leaders throughout history were never fully appreciated until decades after their death, possibly because their actions and decisions at the time were not popular. However, a true leader has the potential to affect the lives of many generations.”

9th – 10th Grade, Honorable Mention

Easton High School

Michelle Bernard, maintains an 4.0 GPA and has been on the Principal’s Honor Roll for all four years. She has dedicated her time unselfishly to help others in her community, she has challenged herself academically, she is a strong leader and role model to others, and she has pursued her goals with enthusiasm and drive. She has participated as a volunteer for a multitude of community functions/groups such as Waterfowl Festival, the Saint Peter & Paul Youth Ministry, Hospice, SOFTLY International, the American Heart Association, the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, and the Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner, of which she was co-founder. In school, Michelle has participated in Habitat for Humanity, Choir, Varsity Tennis and Varsity Swimming.

Michelle is an inspiring future Maryland leader. She states that: ‘A leader is someone who takes on a job that no one else want and carries out its mission. A leader rises above all obstacles in order to guide and

pave the way for others. A leader has a passion for their job or duty and is committed to seeing it through while inspiring others along the way.”

11th – 12th Grade, Honoree

Dundalk High School

Shawtair Thompson maintains a 3.88 GPA.

Shawtair, the first in her family to attend college, will be attending either Cornell University or Syracuse University in the fall. Her activities at school include the soccer and tennis teams, volunteer for the Special Olympics and volunteer for the Super Kids Reading Program. Along with her activities she has received many honors from YWCA’s Future Leaders, All-American Scholar, Physics Olympics, All-American Scholar Athlete, and Kodak Young Leaders as well as numerous athletic awards. Shawtair is an Assistant Instructor for the International School of Protocol, teaching social and communications skills to inner city at-risk youth.

Shawtair is a true future Maryland leader. She defines a leader as: “A person with the capability and experience to make others want to follow them. This person would have courage, creativity, patience, and determination that can deal with or maneuver around problems and ask for help when needed. Lastly, this person should be unselfish and generous because a leader will care more about their followers than themselves.”

11th – 12th Grade, Honorable Mention

Worcester Preparatory School

Ashley Howeth Gunter is taking three Advanced Placement courses this year, along with Calculus and Spanish 3. She has maintained an “A” average in all of her courses. She is a member of the National Honor Society, the National Spanish Honor Society, and the National Art Honor Society. This year, she participated in the Salisbury University’s Math Competition as well as the Jump Start Program at College Park this past summer, where she took courses in biotechnology. Ashley is extremely active in school activities and in her community. She is a member of

the varsity field hockey and tennis teams and was voted “Most Valuable Player” and “All-Conference Player” in field hockey this year. After taking dance lessons for fourteen years, she was chosen to be the dance captain of the school’s musical “Anything Goes.” She was voted the “Best All Round” student for grade 9-11 last year in the tenth grade. Ashley has received several awards in various subjects in the Academic Honors Convocation. She is also the student representative on the Administrative Board at her church and has participated in many walk-a-thons for various charitable events. She has traveled to Honduras three times, where she was a volunteer in an operating room, medical clinic, and orphanage. These experiences have motivated her to pursue a medical career in the future.