

Youth Enrichment Services Announces Winners of Richard Williams College Scholarship Program for 17- to 19-Year-Old Boston Residents

Two New Winners from Roslindale and Dorchester Join Three From Last Year

BOSTON – Aug. 23, 2007 – Youth Enrichment Services (YES), a non-profit that offers low- and moderate-income Boston area kids challenging outdoor and practical learning activities, today announced the 2007 winners of the Richard Williams College Scholarship Program.

Named after YES' Founder Richard Williams, college scholarships were recently awarded to five 17- to 19-year-old Boston residents who are potential leaders and need financial aid to attend higher education.

New winners include Geraldine Medina of Roslindale, who graduated from Boston Latin and is attending Marlboro College, and Tahisha Desir of Dorchester, who graduated from Boston Latin Academy and is attending Fisk University.

They join two-year grant winners Shawn R. Belton-Perry of Jamaica Plain, who graduated from Cathedral High School and is enrolled at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona, FL; Troy D. Harding of Roxbury, who graduated from Boston Community Leadership Academy and is enrolled at Johnson & Wales University in Providence, RI; and Lauren Marshall of Hyde Park, who graduated from the John D. O'Bryant High School and is enrolled at Green Mountain College, Poultney, VT. These three students are in the second year of their YES grants.

“Youth Enrichment Services is proud to invest in young people like Geraldine, Tahisha, Shawn, Troy and Lauren, who all have tremendous leadership potential,” said Mary Williams, president of YES. “We are fortunate to have generous donors who enable us to provide this financial opportunity to kids who may not otherwise be able to afford college.”

The winners have been YES participants and embodied the values that it teaches. These include the following:

- Demonstrate the courage to challenge yourself
- Display a commitment to succeed
- Act as a positive role model
- Share and connect with your community
- Exhibit good character and integrity

For more information about the Richard Williams College Scholarship Program or about YES in general, interested parties may call 617-267-5877.

About Youth Enrichment Services (www.yeskids.org)

Since its founding in 1968, Youth Enrichment Services (YES) has helped more than 100,000 low- and moderate-income Boston area youth build self-esteem and foster life-long respect for themselves, others and the environment through participation in outdoor and practical learning activities. Research shows that YES kids who remain committed to the program over time -- serving as junior counselors and volunteers -- graduate high school, attend college and obtain jobs at a higher rate than their peers. YES also helps local youth agencies and schools offer challenging programs to reward and motivate their members/students. YES is unique in taking kids out of their familiar urban environment and challenging them with both summer and winter outdoor activities such as skiing, hiking and biking. YES is a 501(c)3 educational institution and is registered with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office of Public Charities.

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