



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Central Indiana youth workers honored during awards ceremony

INDIANAPOLIS – Through the Excellence in Summer Service Education Awards (ESSEA) organized by the Marion County Commission on Youth (MCCOY), the Summer Youth Program Fund (SYPF) recently gifted \$1,000 educational stipends to 22 local youth workers.

“Thanks to the hard work of these high school and college students, roughly 50,000 central Indiana children were able to thrive, learn, engage and contribute this summer,” said John Brandon, president and executive director of MCCOY. “Not only did the kids have the chance to develop talents such as dancing, reading, scientific experimentation and artistic expression, but they also learned valuable soft skills like getting along with others, resolving conflicts, communicating, solving problems and working in teams.”

In her ESSEA application, Sydney Rogers, a Heritage Christian student who worked for Like a Lion, said, “One person cannot change the world, but groups of supported, educated children can, and that is why summer programs are important for these kids.”

Brandon added, “It wasn’t only the children who benefitted; each one of these young workers learned valuable lessons as well. They learned things like responsibility, cooperation, flexibility, patience, communication skills and other valuable attributes that will make them indispensable to future supervisors and co-workers.”

Emily Mack, a Ball State University student who worked for Indiana Writers Center, said in her ESSEA application that while working at the summer camp she became more assertive and confident and “learned about my own passions, work ethic and teamwork skills, as my coworkers and I stretched ourselves to the max each day to ensure campers were safe and happy.”

Award recipients, who included five high school students and 17 college students representing 18 summer youth programs, were selected by a group of seven committee members. These selectors reviewed applications sent in by more than 50 youth workers throughout central Indiana. ESSEA honorees were presented with certificates and stipends during an evening ceremony on Friday, September 16 at The Sol Center.

To learn more about the Excellence in Summer Service Education Awards and to download pictures from the ceremony, click [here](#).

To learn more about MCCOY, visit www.mccooyouth.org. To learn more about the Summer Youth Program Fund, visit www.summeryouthprogramfund-indy.org.



2016 Excellence in Summer Service Education Award Recipients

Javier Arellano	Hawthorne Community Center
Lillian Barks	Boneroo Summer Camp
Deja Bullock	The Sanctuary Church
Aaliyah Coe	Keep Indianapolis Beautiful
Jasmine Finley	Zion Hill
Daija Hughley	Keep Indianapolis Beautiful
Kiara Jones	Keep Indianapolis Beautiful
Madeline Lee	Jackson Center for Conductive Education
Emily Mack	Indiana Writers Center
Corajeana Medina	Symphonic Youth Orchestra
Cornelia Perry	Forest Manor Multi Service Center
Maurice Reeves	Keep Indianapolis Beautiful
Paula Andrea Angarita Rivera	Young Innovators Quest
Sydney Rogers	Like a Lion
Irving Salinas	Campecine Youth Academy
Lauren Speer	Indianapolis Children's Choir
Joseph Sturdivant	Fay Biccard Glick Neighborhood Center
Jazmine Swank	Westminster Neighborhood Services
Ring Te	Keep Indianapolis Beautiful
Jimmie Walker, Jr.	Summer Learning Institute
Lauren Washington	Concord Community Center
Bridget Wede	DirectEmployers Institute

Reviewers

John Brandon	Marion County Commission on Youth
ReVae Shivers Miller	The Impact Phase Program
Tom Lange	Crooked Creek CDC
Gail Thomas-Strong	WFYI
Jessica Garcia	Office of Congressman Andrew Carson
Jasmine Burditt	Office of Education Innovation, City of Indianapolis
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CICF/Indianapolis Library Fund
Kroger Central Division
Lilly Endowment, Inc.



The Marion County Commission on Youth, Inc. (MCCOY) is the youth services intermediary for central Indiana whose mission is to champion the positive development of youth through leadership on key issues and support of the youth worker community. MCCOY's vision is that every young person in central Indiana has opportunities to thrive, learn, engage and contribute.

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