

For Immediate Release  
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## **YMCA Black & Hispanic Teens Earn \$424,292 In College Scholarships**

The YMCA of Greater Cincinnati's YMCA Black & Hispanic Teen Achievers Program just honored eight recently graduated YMCA Teen Achievers who collectively earned \$424,292 in full tuition, book and other scholarships given by the YMCA, secondary education institutions and other organizations.

One of the largest regional programs of its kind, the YMCA Black & Hispanic Achievers Program motivates young students of color to further their education and goals with help from successful, professional role models. It is part of a national initiative that incorporates mentoring, career exploration and college readiness; and helps teens of color to develop a positive sense of self, build character, and explore diverse college and career options. Local businesses and organizations sponsor civic minded professionals as YMCA Black & Hispanic Achievers who demonstrate their commitment to giving back by volunteering with the program.

Since its beginning, the local Program has served over 5,000 teens, awarded over \$175,000 in scholarships, assisted youth with over \$3 million dollars in awarded scholarships and engaged more than 4,000 adult volunteers through a network of corporate and community partners. This year the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati presented a four-year full nonresident scholarship from Morehead State University valued at \$64,000; six \$500 book scholarships; a \$1000 scholarship; and a \$2000 scholarship given to Ciera Brooks who last year was also named the National YMCA 5 Star Ambassador Award and presented with a \$10,000 college scholarship from National US Bank Corp.

The recipients all participated in the YMCA Black & Hispanic Teen Achievers Program, maintained a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher, and have already been accepted into college or other secondary education. They were selected based upon essays and interviews.

Recipients include: (the following scholarships are from the YMCA Black & Hispanic Teen Achievers Program)

\$2000

**Ciera Brooks**, graduate of Roger Bacon High School attending Ohio State University

\$1000

**Shabria Williamston**, graduate of SCPA attending Berea College

\$500 book scholarship

**Victoria Davis**, graduate of Monroe High School attending Morehead State University

**Hiram Yukonoamlak**, graduate of Great Oaks attending Cincinnati State Technical & Community College

**Patrice Thompson**, graduate of Finneytown High School attending Wright State University

**Amanda Mills**, graduate of Hughes Center attending the University of Toledo

**Dominique McCall**, graduate of Hughes Center attending Cincinnati State Technical & Community College

**Asia Chaney**, graduate of School for Creative & Performing Arts (SCPA) attending Columbia College Chicago

\$64,000 4 year nonresident tuition scholarship

**Victoria Davis**, graduate from Monroe High School attending Morehead State University

In addition to Victoria Davis, other YMCA scholarship recipients who also received full scholarships from institutions include Ciera Brooks, Shabria Williamston, and Amanda Mills.

"We were so surprised (about the scholarship from Morehead State)," said Davis. "It is such a blessing for my mom especially because she is a single parent and was working real hard to help me with my tuition."

"The YMCA Black & Hispanic Achievers Program helped me a lot, and got me prepared for college and started me thinking about what I want out of my future," said Davis, who also participated in the Program's Toastmasters and also in the YMCA's Youth in City Government. "Now I get excited when I can help other people. I'm always encouraging kids the way and I want to be a volunteer in a mentor program like this one day."

**About the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati:** As the area's largest youth and family-focused not-for-profit, the YMCA reinforces character values through assets-based programs and services to more than 143,000 individuals, kids and families annually. Adult mentors encourage young people to be caring, responsible, respectful, and honest through sports, summer camps, structured child and afterschool care, and leadership building programs. Branches offer quality time for families, resources for parents, and a variety of opportunities for seniors to be active. The Membership for All sliding scale fee structure means everyone, no matter their ability to pay, can always benefit from the YMCA. Last year alone more than 17,400 families and individuals enjoyed healthier and happier lives because generous partners helped the YMCA in its vision to be accessible to all.

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