



YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN IN CHARGE  
FOUNDATION, INC.

## YMWIC 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship & Awards Banquet



YMWIC 2023-2024 Scholars are impressive as they proudly enter into the ballroom.

The Young Men and Women in Charge (YMWIC) Foundation proudly hosted its 14th Annual Scholarship Banquet, a night to remember filled with inspiration, celebration, and gratitude. The event was held to honor the hard work and achievements of our Scholars, and it surpassed all expectations with an incredible turnout.

Our distinguished Mistress of Ceremony for the evening, Barbara Gee-Pratt, set the tone with her charismatic presence and engaging commentary. The Keynote speech was delivered by YMWIC Alum Damon Barr, whose inspiring words left a lasting impact on everyone in attendance.



Keynote Speaker Damon Barr, YMWIC Alum. Class of 2016

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of numerous awards. Scholars of the Year were honored with special awards, acknowledging their exceptional dedication and accomplishments throughout the year. This year's recipients are: Pluto Scholar, **William Zhao**; Neptune Scholar, **Vien Zhao**; Jupiter Scholar, **Gianna Kurian**; and Saturn Scholar, **Samuel Wilson, III**. We proudly recognized the outstanding efforts of our Special Interest Groups (SIGs), each member receiving a custom sweatshirt as a token of our appreciation.

In addition to these awards, we celebrated our graduating seniors, recognizing their hard work and preparing them for the next steps in their academic and professional journeys. The excitement and pride were palpable as each senior was acknowledged for their achievements and contributions to the YMWIC community. We also recognized exemplary



Mr. Rick Roberts poses with Scholars of the Year Gianna Kurian, Vien Zhao, and William Zhao.

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Industry and Community members for their leadership and contributions. The recipients are: WEST IMPACT AWARD **ifm efactor, inc.**, accepted by **Ms. Shannon Michalkiewicz**; EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION, **Dr. Christina L. Carr (Taylor)**; EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, **Dr. Brandon J. Mitchell**; and COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD, **Mrs. Frances M. Sheehan**. Delaware County, Pennsylvania State Representative Hon. Gina Curry graciously presented State Citations to our Industry Executives and Community Champion Award recipients and several YMWIC Scholars in recognition of their accomplishments and achievements.

The evening also featured a lively silent auction, which was a resounding success thanks to the enthusiastic participation of our guests. The funds raised will go a long way in supporting our future initiatives and scholarship programs.

We are deeply humbled and grateful for the overwhelming support and attendance. The event not only highlighted the incredible talents and dedication of our Scholars but also reinforced the strong sense of community that YMWIC fosters. A special thank you to Banquet Sponsors LaFrance Corp, West, Chick-fil-A, The Philadelphia Union, PMI-DVI, Ansys, Hankin Group, and PECO.

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to making this year's Scholarship & Awards Banquet an unforgettable experience. We look forward to continuing our mission of empowering young men and women to achieve their full potential.



*Top photos:*

YMWIC Jazz Ensemble and Choir provide soothing sounds during the pre-dinner reception.

*Bottom left:*

Mr. Roberts with the evening's Keynote Speaker, YMWIC Alum Damon Barr, and Mistress of Ceremony Barbara Gee-Pratt.

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YMWIC Scholar Tisya Dinesh introduces the evening's Mistress of Ceremony.



YMWIC Scholar Mohammad Kamara introduces the evening's Keynote Speaker.



Shannon Michalkiewicz, who accepted the WEST IMPACT AWARD for ifm effector, inc., poses with Rick Roberts.



Dr. Christina L. Carr (Taylor), EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION recipient (on right), with Mistress of Ceremony Barbara Gee-Pratt on left and YMWIC Staff member Ruth Montes.



Dr. Brandon Mitchell, recipient of the EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, is congratulated by Rick Roberts.



Frances M. Sheehan, recipient of the COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD, addresses Scholars and guests after receiving her award.



Pennsylvania Representative Hon. Gina Curry honors Scholar Kimberly Pineda with a citation from the State of Pennsylvania.



Pennsylvania Representative Hon. Gina Curry honors Scholar Terrence Patterson with a citation from the state of Pennsylvania.

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Scholars Eli Smith-Kiser and Bi Gui Liu are presented the Richard Roberts, Jr. Community Service Award by Reginald Weaver and Rick Roberts.



Graduating Scholar Janis A. Bady is presented the Matthew & Stephanie Kistler Family Foundation Scholarship.



Matthew Thomas proudly accepts the Virgil Nelson, Jr. Scholarship from Gail Nelson.



Rick Roberts with winners of the Science Expo Awards (from left to right): Symone Howard, Layla Bente, Charlieze Ganges, Eli Smith-Kiser, Bryce Burwell, and Matthew Thomas.



Janis Bady, YMWIC Staff member, enjoying the Banquet with her son Jason Bady, YMWIC Alum, Class of 2015.



Mistress of Ceremony Barbara Gee-Pratt (center) celebrates the evening's success with YMWIC Staff members Shaniece Renee Mobley and Larcena Johnson.



YMWIC Staff member Veronica Mattaboni enjoys the evening with her husband.



Scholars celebrate their accomplishments and the end of the evening's festivities by reciting the YMWIC Credo.