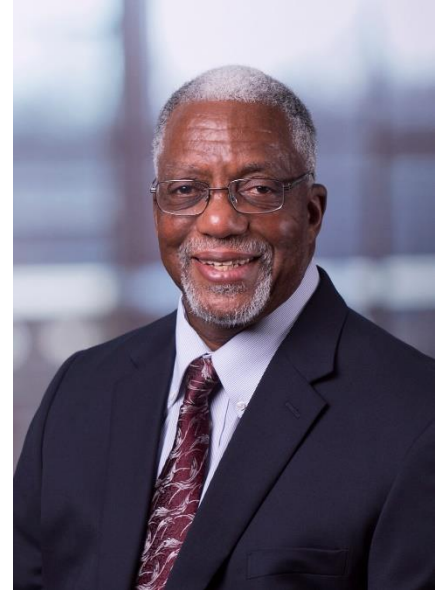


## Volunteer Spotlight

### Curtis Hilliard

This month, we are proud to spotlight long-time volunteer, Curtis Hilliard, who has been offering his services to YMWIC since its beginning. He helps at many major events, most recently the 2022 Scholarship & Awards Banquet, and whenever Mr. Roberts calls on him.

When asked to share his educational journey with us, Curtis said, “While going through elementary school, junior high school, and high school, I always enjoyed learning in all subjects. I loved English and writing as well as science and math (I enjoyed history the most), always finding something interesting in the different areas. I also made sure to keep up my health and physical fitness. Exercise for your body and your brain are important.” He majored in Political Science in college where he learned about governments and political systems all over the world and how they operate. He also took many courses in business and economics.



We asked Curtis about his career path and he shared, “After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, I went on to law school in Washington, DC. During my years in college, I realized I wanted to become an attorney. I had an uncle who was a lawyer and a law school professor. He was a big influence in my life and in my career path. During law school, I took several Business Law courses that I enjoyed. They helped point me to a career in Corporate Law. I was chosen to participate in a school program where students worked at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and received school credit. I enjoyed this program, the work of the SEC and the professionalism of the lawyers that worked there.”

When asked for a lesson for Scholars on how they can learn from setbacks or failures, Curtis replied, “When I graduated from law school, I tried to get a job with the SEC in Washington. For financial reasons that year, the federal government had a ban on hiring new employees. I was very disappointed. However, I went home to New Jersey and worked for a year. I came back after a year and reapplied for a position as an attorney with the SEC. I was hired and worked for the SEC for five years learning all about the Financial Services industry. It kick-started my career as a successful corporate lawyer.”

## Volunteer Spotlight

Curtis has learned throughout his life that it is important to give back. He says, “During my education years and during my career, I have received help from many generous and thoughtful people. Whether it was my parents or family, older students or co-workers and bosses, I would not have had the success I have had without them. So, to give back to those who are coming up behind me is only natural and fitting. Whether it’s financially or giving of your time, we all need to give back.” As previously noted, Curtis has been volunteering for YMWIC since its inception. He says, “What I enjoy most and have found to be the most rewarding is the pleasure and the confidence that the Scholars exhibit when they discuss their projects and their accomplishments. It is so rewarding to see how they grow and develop into confident and productive adults. They gain so much confidence in themselves and in their abilities that it is really great to see.”

In parting, Curtis added, “YMWIC is one of the greatest programs I have been involved with. I wish YMWIC, Mr. Roberts and all his staff and volunteers best wishes for continued success.”

Curtis has been a very important person in the growth of YMWIC, and we wholeheartedly thank him for his many years of dedication and service!