



YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN IN CHARGE
FOUNDATION, INC.



YMWIC 15th Anniversary Scholarship & Awards Banquet -- What a Celebration!

On Thursday, May 22, 2025, YMWIC hosted our 15th Anniversary Scholarship & Awards Banquet, and what a celebration it was! Yes, we celebrated 15 years of recognizing and honoring our Scholars for their hard work and achievements, and awarding community members, corporate and university leaders, and exemplary organizations for their contributions to improving the communities that YMWIC serves.

The event proceeded smoothly as over 400 attendees, which included 250 Scholars and 50 YMWIC



Corporate, University, and School District partner representatives. Also in attendance were many families, friends, and members of the community. They all had the opportunity to meet and greet each other during the Hors d'oeuvres Reception. A delicious meal followed, during which we were entertained by the smooth sounds of the YMWIC Choir and Jazz Ensemble, and awards and recognitions were presented to both Scholars and Community Champions.

Congratulations to YMWIC Scholars who were honored including:

Graduating Seniors:

Angel Aguilar-Fernandez, Isaiah Bellamy, Timothy Bijou, Shamier Burke-Felder, Cristian Calle, Sean Calle, Ariel Camack, Ricardo Chama-Jeronimo, Mohamed Elkhoully, Isis Emerson, Elwood Fahnbulleh, Clarisa Garcia, Lesly Guartan-Duran, Anayjah Johnson, Shania Louis, Myla Massolena, Xavier McClanahan, Jonathan McCoy, Nurah D. Muhammad, Briahna Porter, Ashley Pulido, Hudah M. Sango, Sunshine Sophey, Salimata Sore, Piyush Vats

***Scholars of the Year** (below, left to right accepting their plaques from Mr. Roberts):*

Future Stars: Jahniyah Lewis (not pictured); *Pluto:* Arianna S. Kelsey; *Neptune:* Bryce Burwell;

Jupiter: Zhiyonna A. Sutton; *Saturn:* Mohammed Kamara



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Winners of the YMWIC 13th Annual Science Expo:

Future Stars: 1st Place - Victoria Rodriguez and Ethan Kwok, 2nd Place - Paloma Rodriguez, 3rd Place - Londyn Chambers

Pluto Scholars: 1st Place - Arianna S. Kelsey and Noah Whittington, 2nd Place - Peyton Palmer, 3rd Place - Elijah Ryans

Neptune Scholars: 1st Place - Jaden Coleman and Maxam Ganges, 2nd Place - Milina Dixon, 3rd Place - Layla Manley

High School Scholars: 1st Place Teams - Symone Howard and Spencer Palmer, Emiliano Lopez and Dayanis Morales, 2nd Place Team - Keriece Kelly and Gabrielle Godbolt, 3rd Place Team - Romario Ivey and Jared Ware

Seniors: 1st Place - Salimata Sore, 2nd Place - Angel Aguilar-Fernandez, 3rd Place - Sunshine Sophey

Scholar recipients of Special Awards and Recognitions:

Richard Roberts, Jr. Community Service Award: Jonathan M. McCoy and Zhiyonna Sutton

Virgil Nelson, Jr. Scholarship: Jonathan McCoy

Matthew & Stephanie & Stephanie Kistler Family Foundation Scholarship: Lesly Guarton-Duran

We also honored Industry Executives and deserving community stalwarts who support YMWIC and our communities with awards. Citations were also sent to be awarded to each honoree by the Chester County Commissioners. Congratulations to the recipients! (*Below, left to right, Mrs. Keisha Wilkins not pictured.*)



West Impact Award: Presented to **Ansys Government Initiatives (AGI)**, a valued YMWIC partner, accepted by **Shashank Narayan**, Chief Technology Officer of Ansys Government Initiatives.

Educational Leadership Award for Post-Secondary Education: **Brian M. Forster, Ph.D.**, Saint Joseph's University, GEP Science Lab Coordinator (College of Arts & Sciences), Chemical Hygiene Officer (Environmental Health & Radiation Safety (Hawk Hill Campus)

Educational Leadership Award for Secondary Education: **Mrs. Keisha Q. Wilkins**, Principal, Martin Luther King High School; and **Dr. Stacey Mitchell-Precia**, Assistant Principal, Martin Luther King High School

Community Leadership Award: **Marie Hegarty**, Project Management Institute, Delaware Valley Chapter (PMI-DVC), Chapter Board member, VP, Membership & Volunteers

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Our Keynote Speaker was **Pamela R. McCauley, Ph.D., C.P.E.**, an internationally recognized Industrial Engineering researcher, STEM advocate, university leader, seasoned entrepreneur, innovator and experienced federal Program Director. She is also an acclaimed keynote speaker, a dedicated Professor, and Dean of the School of Engineering at Widener University (*Pictured at right*).



Dr. McCauley delivered a poignant message to our Scholars full of words of wisdom and sage advice that, if they are wise, will heed and use now and well into their futures.

As always, it was an evening of pride for the Foundation, with our Scholars proudly presenting themselves in their formal uniforms. We rewarded our Seniors with the scholarships they have earned by meeting the requirements of YMWIC Scholars, recognized those who are so well-deserving, enjoyed fellowship and a delicious dinner courtesy of the Sheraton Valley Forge Hotel, and set our sights forward as we continue to improve our programming and expand our reach to serve a growing number of Scholars.

Thank you to the many volunteers who helped to make this great event possible, the many donors who made contributions, our university, corporate, and school district Partners, and Sponsors LaFrance Corp, Constellation, Justamere Foundation, West, Kelly Foundation, PMI-DVC, 3M, WSFS Bank, Hankin Group, Johnson Matthey, Ansys, PECO, and Truist Bank. Compiled for your enjoyment is an album of photos from the event.

Check-In and Hors d'oeuvres Reception



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Guests and Dinner



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Scholars and Awards Recipients



1st Place Science Research Project Winners (from left): *Future Stars*: Victoria Rodriguez; *Pluto*: Ariana Kelsey and Noah Whittington; *Neptune*: Jaden Coleman and Maxam Ganges; *High School*: Dayanis Morales and Emiliano Lopez, and Spencer Palmer and Symone Howard.
Photo below left: *Seniors*: Salimata Sore



Zhiyonna Sutton and Jonathan Mccoy accept their Richard Roberts, Jr. Community Service Awards



Master of Ceremonies Reginald Weaver is presented a Token of Appreciation by Rick Roberts.



Reginald Weaver reciprocates by presenting Rick Roberts with a Legacy Plaque of the Richard Roberts, Jr. Community Service Awards Scholar recipients.



YMWIC 2025 Graduating Seniors: Ricardo Chama-Jeronimo, Mohamed Elkhoully, Xavier McClanahan, Shamier Burke-Felder, Clarisa Garcia, Isis Emerson, Ariel Camack, Salimata Sore, Scholar Name, Jonathan Mccoy, Myla Massolena, Nurah Muhammad, and Lesly Guartan-Duran

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In closing, graduating senior Isis Emerson volunteers to lead her fellow Scholars in reciting the YMWIC Credo.

