



YOUTH MENTORING COLLABORATIVE

Youth Mentoring Collaborative announces first annual Outstanding Youth Leaders of the Year Scholarship Award

Award to provide academic opportunities to local black and brown youth in the Carolinas, winners to be unveiled at 2022 Carolinas Youth Mentoring Symposium

NORTH CAROLINA August 22nd, 2022 – Youth Mentoring Collaborative (YMC) launches its first *Outstanding Youth Leaders of the Year* scholarship award for rising high school juniors and seniors in the Carolinas. Three (3) recipients will be selected and announced at the [2022 Carolinas Youth Mentoring Symposium](#) (CYMS) on November 12, 2022.

The scholarship award, sponsored by the [Ciara Arts and Science Foundation](#), provides a four-year, half-tuition Scholarship and laptops to students attending post-secondary schools; the Scholarship is valued at \$20,000 over four years, or \$5,000 per year. To qualify, students must:

- Be a participant in a current or previous YMC partner program
- Have at least a 3.0 grade point average
- Plan to major in the Arts and/or Sciences
- Provide at least one recommendation letter from a current or former mentor

In alignment with the organization's most recent recommitment to centering youth most impacted by systems of oppression, the scholarship provides tangible resources to support the academic success of the recipients.

Scholarship applications will be reviewed by a committee that includes three YMC board members, all of whom are youth that participated in North Carolina mentoring programs.

“The youth board members have been the ones really doing the work for this scholarship,” says Vice President of Organization Development and Training, Kanalyn Jackson. “This process is youth-led, and is a clear demonstration of what we mean when we talk about giving youth power and a voice.”

Jackson added, “With youth voices leading and informing the process, we can better understand how to create meaningful opportunities that best serve other youth.”

Scholarship recipients will be celebrated in November at CYMS, an annual gathering that brings together mentoring practitioners, researchers, philanthropic investors, youth leaders, government and civic leaders, and others interested in exploring how to expand mentoring initiatives that promote the health and well-being of young people. This year’s event will welcome 300+ attendees to the Friday Center at UNC Chapel Hill, and includes multiple tracks for both professionals and youth attendees.

For more information about YMC’s Outstanding Scholars of the Year award, please visit youthmentoringcollaborative.org/outstanding-youth-leaders-of-the-year-scholarship.

About Youth Mentoring Collaborative

The Youth Mentoring Collaborative (YMC) is a capacity-building organization dedicated to increasing the number of black and brown youth in identity-affirming mentoring relationships while working to dismantle the systemic barriers that youth and their families face on a daily basis. This includes providing training, resources, public awareness, and advocacy that supports the expansion of mentoring initiatives that promote the health and well-being of young people and families most impacted by systems of oppression.

For more information and tickets for 2022 CYMS, visit youthmentoringcollaborative.org.

Media Contact

Hannah McKinney, Manager of Communications & Storytelling
Youth Mentoring Collaborative
hcmkinney@youthmentoringcollaborative.org
1.800.956.3820