



W Honoring the
omen of Tomorrow
2013

You Will *Rule*
The W  rld!



Maryland Commission for Women

The Maryland Commission for Women (MCW) was created in 1965 and established as an independent agency by an act of the Maryland General Assembly in 1971. It is a 25 member diverse group of citizens appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate from among persons interested in the improvement in the status of women and girls. The Commission's membership represents the geographical regions and diversity of the state. Members are appointed for terms of four years. The Commission is housed in the Maryland Department of Human Resources.

Mission

The Maryland Commission for Women (MCW) advises government, advances solutions, and serves as a statewide resource to expand social, political, and economic opportunities for all women.

Vision

All Maryland women have full social, political, and economic equality.

Commissioners

Honorable Patricia Cornish, *Chair, Talbot County*

Honorable Lynn Fitrell, *Vice-Chair, St. Mary's County*

Mythili (Lee) Bachu, *Montgomery County*

Tanesha Boldin, *Baltimore County*

Darlene Breck, *Charles County*

Kimberly Brown, Ph.D., *Anne Arundel County*

Lillian Cruz, *Montgomery County*

Susan Elgin, *Baltimore City*

Helen Holton, *Baltimore City*

Velvet Johnson, *Prince George's County*

Varsha Mathur, *Charles County*

Ginger Miller, *Prince George's County*

Patricia Omana, *Howard County*

Patricia Owens, *Frederick County*

Betsy Ramirez, *Prince George's County*

Anita Riley, *Carroll County*

Debbie Risper, *Baltimore County*

Cara Tenenbaum, *Montgomery County*

Roseanna Vogt, *Calvert County*

Dr. Kathleen White, *Secretary, Baltimore County*

Wandra Ashley-Williams, *Howard County*

A. Diane Williams, *Prince George's County*



Honoring the 2013 Women of Tomorrow

Honorees

GRADES 7-8 HONOREES

First Place

Danyell Pender

Inner Harbor East Academy for Young Scholars, Baltimore City

Honorable Mention

Elaaf Zahid

Annapolis Middle School, Anne Arundel County

GRADES 9-10 HONOREES

First Place

Taylor Gresham

Grace Brethren Christian School, Prince George's County

Honorable Mention

Delaney Hancock

Great Mills High School, St. Mary's County

GRADES 11-12 HONOREES

First Place

Regina Tompros

Meade Senior High School, Anne Arundel County

Honorable Mention

Diana Vanessa Perez

Oakdale High School, Frederick County



The Women of Tomorrow Awards

The Women of Tomorrow Awards was established in 1997 to honor and acknowledge extraordinary young women who have demonstrated a commitment to community service and academic excellence.

Maryland will continue to flourish because of our future women leaders and their unceasing commitment to the community. The Women of Tomorrow Awards gives us the opportunity to honor these remarkable young women.

These young women are selected for honor through a process that begins with an annual statewide call for nominations. An independent, all volunteer selection committee reviews the applications and selects six young women; two per grade grouping.

Affirmation Shared by:
Jennifer Jones, *Chair*
Prince George's County Commission for Women

Our Deepest Fear

*Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.
Our deepest fear
is that we are powerful beyond measure.
It is our light, not our darkness,
that most frightens us.
We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous,
talented and fabulous?
Actually who are we not to be?
You are a child of God.
Your playing small doesn't serve the world.
There is nothing enlightened about shrinking
so that other people
won't feel insecure around you.
We are all meant to shine as children do.
We were born to make manifest
the glory of God that is within us.
It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone.
And when we let our own light shine,
we unconsciously give other people
permission to do the same.
As we are liberated from our own fear,
our presence automatically liberates others.*

Marianne Williamson

A Return to Love: Reflections on the Principles of "A Course in Miracles"



Women of Tomorrow Awards Ceremony 2013

June 20, 2013
5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Welcome & Introductions

Patricia Cornish, Chair
Maryland Commission for Women

Greetings

Theodore Dallas, Secretary
Department of Human Resources

Acknowledgements

Scott Canuel, Sr. Vice President and Wealth Director
PNC Bank

Introduction of Selection Committee

Tanesha Boldin, Co-Chair
2013 Women of Tomorrow

Introduction of Honorees

Nominator, Nancy Chae for Danyell Pender
Nominator, Megan Earley for Eelaaf Zahid
Nominator, Rev. Jerome Tarver for Taylor Gresham
Nominator, Norma Pipkin for Delaney Hancock
Nominator, Bobbi Coffman for Regina Tompros
Nominator, Nancy Davis for Diana Vanessa Perez

Message from U.S. Senators Barbara Mikulski and Ben Cardin

Lynn Fitrell, Co-Chair

*Assistant to Senator Barbara Mikulski
Joyce Leviton, Assistant to Senator Ben Cardin*

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Lynn Fitrell, Co-Chair
2013 Women of Tomorrow

Keynote Speaker

Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.
Maryland State Superintendent of Schools

Closing Remarks

Lynn Fitrell & Tanesha Boldin, Co-Chairs
2013 Women of Tomorrow

Patricia Cornish, Chair
Maryland Commission for Women



Maryland Commission for Women

A Commission of the Maryland Department of Human Resources

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Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

Ted Dallas
Secretary

Patricia Cornish
Chair

June 6, 2013

To the 2013 Women of Tomorrow Awardees:

On behalf of the Maryland Commission for Women, we congratulate all of you on your well-deserved award as a Woman of Tomorrow. Many of you have already begun to blaze the trails in which others will follow. As you embark upon your endeavors in and outside of the classroom, we hope that you remember all the women who blazed so many variations of paths for you.

In all of you, as with those women and girls before you, we see strong leaders, active community servants and quiet "Sheroes." We look forward to seeing your name in lights on several fronts and we wish you continued success in all areas of your lives. If we can be of any assistance with issues that advances solutions to expand social, political, and economic equality for women and girls, please do not hesitate to contact the Maryland Commission for Women.

Enjoy your recognition and leverage it to forge ahead.

Women of Tomorrow, You Will Rule the World!

Warmly,

Lynn Fitrell, Co-Chair
2013 Women of Tomorrow

Tanesha Boldin, Co-Chair
2013 Women of Tomorrow

Advancing Solutions for Maryland Women



Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.
Maryland State Superintendent of Schools

“Every child should be inspired to dream and given the tools to make those dreams a reality.”

Excellence, Equity, Efficiency — the three areas Maryland’s newly appointed State Superintendent of Schools said she is capitalizing on for every student, teacher, and administrator throughout the State.

In April 2012, the Maryland State Board of Education appointed Dr. Lillian M. Lowery to take the helm of the nation’s number-one ranked State school system on July 1, 2012. In assuming her new role as Maryland State

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Lowery, who is known for broad-based strategic planning and a willingness to consider innovative financial approaches, expressed that she is excited to take Maryland’s outstanding education system to the next level—implementing the initiatives of the State’s third wave of education reform; supported by the federal Race to the Top [RTTT] grant.

Prior to coming to Maryland, Dr. Lowery was appointed Secretary of Education for the State of Delaware, a role she assumed January 2009 where she facilitated a statewide strategic planning and grant application process, including teachers, administrators, representatives from collective bargaining unions and associations, Vision 2015 members, leading corporate and business investors, parent/family advocates, higher education, philanthropy, the Governor’s Office, General Assembly, and State Board of Education, which resulted in Delaware being selected as the “*First State*” awarded the RTTT grant to put aggressive systemic education reform in practice.

Dr. Lowery’s career in education began in middle school as an English teacher in North Carolina and Virginia, moving into high school and subsequently serving as a High School Assistant Principal, a Minority Student Achievement Monitor, a High



School Principal, an Assistant Superintendent in Fairfax County Public Schools, and Superintendent of Christina School District in Delaware. As Superintendent of the Christina School District, she enhanced the educational programs of students, improving student achievement, and administering district policies for a K-12 district, where approximately 15 percent of the students spoke a language other than English at home. Dr. Lowery identified and closed a \$17.5 million year-over-year fiscal deficit and lead the district back to solvency.

Dr. Lowery received her Doctorate of Education degree in Education and Policy Studies from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University [*“Virginia Tech”*], a Master of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Education from North Carolina Central University. She was a Fellow in the Broad Foundation’s Urban Superintendents Academy in 2004.

She has many community and professional affiliations that include the American Association of School Administrators (AASA), Delaware State University Board of Trustees, the ETS Teacher Licensure and Certification Delaware Advisory Board, Workforce Investment Board, Delaware State Chamber of Commerce Partnership, the Southern Regional Education Board, Vision 2015 Steering and Implementation Committees, the Delaware Nature Society, and the Delaware Boys and Girls Club Corporate Board.

On the national and international stage, Dr. Lowery has presented her numerous publications that include, *Programs and Projects that Facilitate Emergent Literacy; Whose Leadership is Required?; Comparative Education: Standards-Based Learning; Community Support for Minority Student Achievement; and Forum on the Public School.*

Awards include *Second Mile Award*, 2008, University of Delaware; *Junior Achievement Award*, 2007, Wilmington, Delaware; *Outstanding Service Award*, 2006, Fairfax County Public Schools Board of Education; *Mayor’s Service Award*, 2002, City of Fairfax, Virginia; *Outstanding Service Award and Proclamation*, 2002, City of Fairfax School Board; Outstanding School Representative, 2002, Fairfax Youth Community Alliance; and *Citizenship Award*, 2001, City of Fairfax Police Department.





Last year Awardees 2012

Past Women of Tomorrow Honorees

2000

Grades 6th – 8th

Lisa Cunningham, Honoree, Catonsville Middle School
Kelly Perl Klein, Honorable Mention, Clarksville Middle School

Grades 9th – 10th

Pamela Hampton, Honoree, Aberdeen High School
Connie Taylor, Honorable Mention, Atholton High School

Grades 11th – 12th

Catherine Hoang, Honoree, Leonardtown High School
Julie Hocker, Honorable Mention, C. Milton Wright High School
Ashley Wiggins, Honorable Mention, Great Mills High School

2001

Grades 6th – 8th

Amanda Bory, Honoree, Pine Grove Middle School
Rashaunda Dickens, Honorable Mention, Drew-Freeman Middle School

Grade 9th – 10th

Whytne Brooks, Honoree, North Hagerstown High School
Kimberlie Sage, Honorable Mention, McDonogh High School

Grade 11th – 12th

Angela Brooks, Honoree, Forest Park Senior High School
Ellen Slattery, Honorable Mention, Arundel High School

2002

Grades 6th – 8th

Nicole Turner, Honoree, Kettering Middle School
Michelle McVey, Honorable Mention, Aberdeen Middle School

Grades 9th – 10th

Ouqi Jian Richard, Honoree, Montgomery High School
Ebony Ellison, Honorable Mention, Charles H. Flowers High School

Grades 11th – 12th

Catherine Denny, Honoree, Leonardtown High School
Kimberly Hung, Honorable Mention, Richard Montgomery High School

2003

Grades 6th – 8th

Ladonna A. Brown, Honoree, Lombard Middle School
Falasha R. Culpepper, Honorable Mention, Gaithersburg Middle School

Grades 9th – 10th

Donielle Avery Simmons, Honoree, Charles Herbert Flowers High School
Jackelyn Raquel Lopez, Honorable Mention, Bishop McNamara High School

Grades 11th – 12th

Catarina Rivera, Honoree, Eleanor Roosevelt High School
Ashley Michelle Nathanson, Honorable Mention, Arundel Senior High School

2004

Grades 6th – 8th

Erica Jackson, Honoree, Ernest Everett Just Middle School
Rachel Harbarger, Honorable Mention, Trinity School
Claire Baldi, Honorable Mention, Trinity School

Grades 9th – 10th

Victoria Moore, Honoree, Salisbury School
Michelle Bernard, Honorable Mention, Easton High School

Grades 11th – 12th

Ashley Howeth Gunter, Honoree, Worcester Preparatory School
Shawtair Thompson, Honorable Mention, Dundalk High School

**2005**

Grades 7th – 8th

Lindsay Marie Smith, Honoree, Southhampton Middle School
Hannah Leigh Stone, Honorable Mention, Plum Point Middle School

Grades 9th – 10th

Allison Michell Lewis, Honoree, Thomas S. Wootton High School
Alyssa Rebecca Vain-Callahan, Honorable Mention, Severn School

Grades 11th – 12th

Alyson Taylor Blum, Honoree, Glenelg High School
Jessica Kathleen Riley, Honorable Mention, Archbishop Spalding High School

2006

Grades 7th – 8th

Walesia Robinson Cates, Honoree, Sligo Adventist School
Erin Taylor Spencer, Honorable Mention, Hereford Middle School

Grades 9th – 10th

Yelena Waldmann Dewald, Honoree, Allegany High School
Karly Marie Logsdon, Honorable Mention, Hancock Mid-Senior High School

Grades 11th – 12th

Heather Ann Stone, Honoree, Allegany High School
Alison Leigh Menke, Honorable Mention, River Hill High School

2007

Grades 7th – 8th

Jonece Marguerite Layne, Honoree, Kenmoore Middle School
Kelly Ann Gallagher, Honorable Mention, Trinity School

Grades 9th – 10th

Tanzina Iman, Honoree, Springbrook High School
Georgette Anwi Ndamukong, Honorable Mention, Glen Burnie High School

Grades 11th – 12th

Jennifer Danielle Oswald, Honoree, Carver Center for Arts and Technology
Kierstin Dawn Stevenson, Honorable Mention, Beall High School

2008

Grades 7th – 8th

Namrata Mohanty, Honoree, John Poole Middle School
Kierra McBeth, Honorable Mention, Lindale Middle School

Grades 9th – 10th

Aubrey Rose, Honoree, St. John's Preparatory School
Adejire Bademosi, Honorable Mention, Marriott's Ridge High School

Grades 11th – 12th

Stephanie Onuoha, Honoree, Largo High School
Gabiella Biondo, Honorable Mention, George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology

2009

Grades 7th – 8th

Kiauna Nickole Freeman, Honoree, Matthew Henson Middle School
Natalie Brosh, Honorable Mention, Patterson Mill Middle School

Grades 9th – 10th

D'ymond Shantyl Dantzler, Honoree, Randalltown High School
Kelly Ann Marx, Honorable Mention, Stephen Decatur High School

Grades 11th – 12th

Jasmine Adams, Honoree, Northern High School
Valerie Caplan, Honorable Mention, George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology

2010

Grades 7th – 8th

Emily Brooke Zimmerman, Honoree, Walkersville Middle School
Madeline Henwood, Honorable Mention, Northern Middle School

Grades 9th- 10th

Asmi Panigrahi, Honoree, Atholton High School
Josephine Grant, Honorable Mention, Francis Scott Key High School

Grades 11th -12th

Allegra Hawkins, Honoree, Easton High School
Bianca Datta, 1st Honorable Mention, Thomas S. Wootton High School
Thuy-Vy Duong, 2nd Honorable Mention, Rockville High School

2011

Grades 7th-8th

Michelle Horne, Honoree, Chesapeake Public Charter School
Alexandra Comegys, Honorable Mention, St. Ursula School

Grade 9th -10th

Josephine Grant, Honoree, Francis Scott Key High School
Tyra Hooper, Honorable Mention, Bryn Mawr School

Grade 11th -12th

Ilana Price, Honoree-11th Grade, Bethesda-chase High School
Megan Toms, Honorable Mention-11th Grade, Frederick County Career & Technology Center

Carson Wigley, Honoree-12th Grade, Worcester Preparatory School

Meredith Good-Cohn, Honorable Mention-12th Grade, Garrison Forest School

2012

Grades 7th-8th

Mackenzie Chapman, Honoree, Piccowaxen Middle School
Mackenzie Peperak, Honorable Mention, Boonsboro Middle School

Grades 9th-10th

Claudia Alarco, Honoree, James Hubert Blake High School
Sabrina Donnack, Honorable Mention, City Neighbors High School

Grades 11th-12th

Christina McIntyre, Honoree, Bel Air High School
Emily Peterson, Honorable Mention, Atholton High School
Luz Camargo, Honorable Mention, Frederick County Career & Technology Center



Danyell Pender



Danyell Pender is a 7th grade student at Inner Harbor East Academy for Young Scholars in Baltimore, Maryland. Danyell is an exemplary student, who demonstrates excellence in her academics, behavior, and attendance. Danyell has been recognized with the Principal's Award for achieving an overall A-average each academic quarter. Danyell is also an active participant and leader on the National Academic League as well as a fully-trained Peer Mediator.

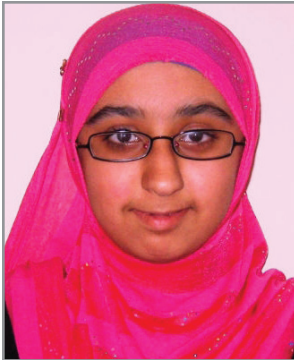
Danyell hopes to pursue a college degree and career in fashion design or education because she hopes to share her creative and artistic passions with other students as well as the world. On her spare time, Danyell enjoys art and reading fiction novels and biographies. Her favorite author is Rachel Renee Russell.

Danyell is a young woman of great accomplishments with much potential as a future leader of Maryland. On behalf of Inner Harbor East Academy for Young Scholars, we are so proud and extremely honored to recognize Danyell Pender as one of six young women in the State of Maryland for the Woman of Tomorrow award.





Eelaaf Zahid



Eelaaf Zahid is a seventh grade student at Annapolis Middle School in Anne Arundel County. She maintains a 4.0 grade point average while enrolled in the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme.

Eelaaf and her family moved from Faisalabad, Pakistan when she was the young age of 18 months old. For the first few years of her life, she was burdened with surgeries trying to fix her dislocated hip. She is thankful that she had medical attention because now she lives a comfortable life. Eelaaf is the eldest of five children. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, sewing, embroidering and crochet.

At school, Eelaaf is a favorite among teachers and students. She is very responsible and tries to put school before her social life. Eelaaf enjoys studying math and language arts but her favorite is learning Chinese. Currently, Eelaaf is organizing a field trip to Chinatown in New York for her Chinese class. She likes all of her teachers and believes school is extremely enjoyable. Eelaaf is a dedicated member of our school Chorus and tried out for All-County Chorus this year.

Eelaaf participates in the Model UN Club and Newspaper Club. In Model UN, Eelaaf represented a delegate from Pakistan. The conference, which was held in the December of 2012, was on the topic of women's rights. Eelaaf presented Pakistan's view of women and how the problem could be solved. She was awarded a medal for being an outstanding delegate. In sixth grade, Eelaaf participated in the Anne Arundel County Spelling Bee. She has been nominated as the Ben Carson Scholars Award.

Eelaaf serves as a student ambassador at Annapolis Middle School. She helps out at multiple open house events giving tours to prospective parents and students. Eelaaf has also served on student panels answering questions about her school to the interested families. Eelaaf is an avid volunteer in her school library. She volunteers each morning checking books, organizing books, and any other help that the librarian asks her to do. She enjoys the library so much that she volunteers in the public library during her summers off.

At home, Eelaaf fluently speaks Urdu and fulfills her duties as a Muslim. She also takes Quran classes over the phone because she is trying to memorize the Quran; which is in Arabic. Eelaaf also helps her father plan monthly meetings for their Islamic worship.

Eelaaf plans on pursuing a career in the nonprofit sector. Her hope is that the organization will benefit people with disabilities.



**First Place**

Taylor Gresham



Taylor Renee Gresham is a sophomore at Grace Brethren Christian School in Clinton, Maryland and resides in Upper Marlboro with her parents, Darrell and Cheryl Gresham. Taylor is a compassionate young lady with a heart to serve. As a young child, Taylor's desire to help others was borne out of an early expression of independence. At the tender age of two, when her mother tried to assist her at the dinner table, Taylor proclaimed, "Taylor wants Taylor to do it!" And with that, hard work and dedication have helped to define Taylor's life and her willingness to help others.

Taylor collected books to donate to Shepherd's Cove, a PG County Women and Children shelter. Abiding by her grandmother's words of "charity begins at home," Taylor literally began her outreach efforts in her family home. For the last four years, Taylor has co-hosted an in-home "Girls Night Out" event whereby women and girls share fellowship, participate in a gift auction, listen to a local author, and provide gift donations.

In 2012, Taylor officially called her initiative, "*Taylor's Boutique of Giving.*" As the principle organizer, Taylor contacts prospective recipient organizations, create invitations, collect, organize, and delivers the donated items. To date, *Taylor's Boutique of Giving* has delivered approximately 100 books, clothing, and hundreds of personal items. Taylor's gift for giving is not limited to the motivations of her reading. She is a member of Pen or Pencil, a program designed to influence public policy related to the juvenile justice problems. As the elected President of the National Harbor Teen Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., Taylor works with other teens to promote leadership development, cultural heritage, and community service which included participation in two 5K walks in support of the American Heart Association. Taylor attends the Maple Springs Baptist Church where she regularly works in the nursery and assists with food preparation during Junior Church. With a servant's heart, she always remains behind to assist with cleanup. For three years, Taylor has been a volunteer with the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) and has been invited to chair the Host/Hostess Committee at the 2014 luncheon which historically has served over 1,000 attendees.

Taylor is an honors scholar-athlete whose achievement includes acceptance into the National Junior Honor Society, recipient of the Presidential Fitness Volunteer Service Award and the Track & Field Scholar Athlete Award, membership in the Architecture Club and Runners Club, Varsity Tennis Team, and she is invited to join the 2014 Year Book Staff. An avid reader, Taylor was recognized in middle and high school with Meeting the Millionaire Reading Challenge. In 2006, Taylor traveled to Cape Canaveral to witness the rare night time launch of STS-116 Space Shuttle Discovery and was invited to attend NASA's pre-launch forum, "Dare to Dream: Inspire the Next Generation".

Taylor is a participant in the People to People Student Ambassador Program. During the summer of 2012, Taylor traveled with a contingent of advisors and teen peers to Australia and New Zealand and is planning an international trip to Spain, France, and Italy in 2014.





Delaney Hancock



Delaney Hancock is a freshman at Great Mills High School, where she is in the STEM program. Delaney was accepted in the STEM program in its inaugural year, when she was in 4th grade. She has lived in Saint Mary's County her entire life. She has three sisters, two younger and one older. She enjoys playing piano, singing, and acting. She is part of the Great Mills Field Hockey and Lacrosse team, and she also was the female lead in one of the Great Mills one-acts during the winter. She maintains a 4.129 grade average. Delaney also enjoys playing baseball with her family, playing basketball, and reading. She volunteers many hours with Girl Scout Camps, in the community, and with her church as an Advanced Altar Server. A few of her greatest accomplishments were completing her Girl Scout Silver Award, receiving the Will

Smith Leadership Award, and receiving the 2013 Women of Tomorrow award for St. Mary's County. The Will Smith Leadership Award was for basketball, and it was for a player that demonstrated good sportsmanship on and off of the court. The Girl Scout Silver Award requires fifty hours of service for a specific cause. Delaney chose to host an 'Introduction to the Performing Arts' camp where she taught twenty children between the ages of six and ten about different aspects of theater, such as costumes, displaying emotion and feeling, sets and props, and improvising. The campers also practiced and perfected a short play that they performed for their parents on the last day of camp. Delaney thought that the best part of the week was getting to know all of the campers, and especially at the end of the week when a few of them told her they loved performing wanted to start acting. Delaney loves working with kids. She really enjoys math and science, and she wants to be a doctor. As of now, Delaney hopes to become a pediatric oncologist.





First Place

Regina Tompros



I am a current senior attending Meade Senior High School for the International Baccalaureate program. Amongst all of the rigorous courses I have taken, my favorite class is environmental systems and societies. Since the seventh grade, I have developed a passion for our environment and especially Maryland's own, Chesapeake Bay.

In the fall, I plan on attending West Virginia University. There, I will be studying environmental engineering. My future goals in life will be accomplished with the passion I have had since middle school, which is to restore watersheds and make water more sanitary. Also at West Virginia University I plan on taking

advantage of their "Engineers without Borders" program, which allows students to travel all around the world in order to engineer solutions for global resource conflicts.

I am always staying involved in my community, whether it is helping the homeless, raising money for charities, or participating in restoration projects. I am the second term president of our schools 300 member Key Club and I live and breathe community service. I have served over 600 hours with Happy Helpers for the Homeless alone, and over 950 community service hours all together with several other charities and organizations. Through Key Club, I have developed into a selfless individual that is willing to help anyone in need.





Diana Vanessa Perez



Vanessa has a tremendous gift and a special quality for helping others, no matter who they are or the background they come from. She started helping our English Language Learners (ELL) in a summer school program so they could earn a high school credit for English. Being of Hispanic background, she was a natural to be able to help other students whose primary language was not English. She dedicated five weeks of her summer vacation to help our ELL students. She was so genuine and sincere in her efforts. She really made a difference and helped 17 students to earn their English 12 credit for graduation. Her service and help was invaluable.

An after school mentor-tutor program was later established at Frederick High and Vanessa wanted to be part of it, in spite of not attending school in the Frederick feeder pattern, she manages to be there three days a week to help with the program. It has been almost a full school year and Vanessa attends the mentor-tutoring program every week. She is such a valuable asset and is very committed to helping the ELL students. Vanessa states, "When I see someone in need of help, I am willing to aid them no matter what. I am not a judgmental person because we never know what a person may be going through."

She is a natural leader and organizer. Not only does she help at Frederick High but she also goes to West Frederick Middle every Tuesday to work with three new ELL students with limited English skills.

At her home school of Oakdale High, she is president of the Minority Reach Club and Spanish National Honors Society. She is also member of the National Honor Society, Spanish National Honors Society, Science Honors Society and Leadership Academy. She has also won the Outstanding Leadership award and the Student Excellence award. Most recently, she has been selected to intern over the summer and during the school year for USAMRIID (United States Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases) for science research at Fort Detrick.

Recently she has become a youth member of the Frederick County Coalition for Immigration Concerns and Reform. As the youngest member, she wants to be an advocate and spokesperson for people who struggled like her parents when they first came as immigrants to the United States. With the coalition she was able to fill up 2 buses to D.C. for an immigration reform rally and write a testimony in favor of passing the Maryland Highway Safety Act and pass it out at a hearing.

Vanessa' goal is to attend a Maryland College to become a pediatric physician's assistant. She hopes to eventually go on medical missions to provide free medical care for children in third world countries and work for federal programs for low-income families.

Vanessa is truly an outstanding young lady and an excellent role model for all students. She truly exhibits the qualities of a caring and compassionate person, who leads by example.





*The Maryland Commission for Women
congratulates each exceptional
young woman nominated for this award*

Special Thanks are Extended to...

The Friends of the Maryland Commission for Women
Maryland Department of Human Resources

Program Co-Sponsor

The Friends of the Maryland Commission for Women
PNC Bank

2013 Women of Tomorrow Selection Committee

Lynn Fitrell, Co-Chair
Tanesha Boldin, Co-Chair
Laura Bush, Cover Girl
Debra Bright Harris, Montgomery College
Dr. Kathleen White, Chair Education Committee MCW
Christine Wray, MedStar St. Mary's Hospital

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Bonnie Ariano, Special Assistant
Crystal Young, Program Administrator
Ellie Elgin, Director of Outreach
Andrea Judkin, MCW Intern



Martin O'Malley, Governor

Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor

Theodore Dallas, Secretary