

2026

- Briana Ciccarelli**
Allegany County
- Kayla Morrison**
Anne Arundel County
- Naomi Boldon**
Baltimore City
- Moréoluwa Falae**
Baltimore County
- Rondy Le**
Calvert County
- Shari Macario Deleon**
Caroline County
- Trisha Savalia**
Carroll County
- Lillian Martin**
Cecil County
- Sydni Hawkins**
Charles County
- Christian McNamara**
Dorchester County
- Kiera Kincaid**
Frederick County
- Brady Garlitz**
Garrett County
- Sophia Reinert**
Harford County
- Ilerioluwa Adubi**
Howard County
- McKenzie Smith**
Kent County
- Siddharth Karnati**
Montgomery County
- Chelsea Ejerenwa**
Prince George's County
- Jasmin Cota**
Queen Anne's County
- Renee Hale**
Somerset County
- Aarav Sharma**
St. Mary's County
- Tessa Diefenderfer**
Talbot County
- Nora Murthy**
Washington County
- Sheraz Ahmad**
Wicomico County
- Alaina Alvarado**
Worcester County



MARYLAND
Business Roundtable
for EDUCATION

MARYLAND
THE DAILY RECORD

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PROUDLY CELEBRATES

A large, stylized illustration of a stack of books in shades of blue, serving as a background for the central text. The books are drawn with fine lines to represent pages and spines, and are arranged in a slightly irregular stack.

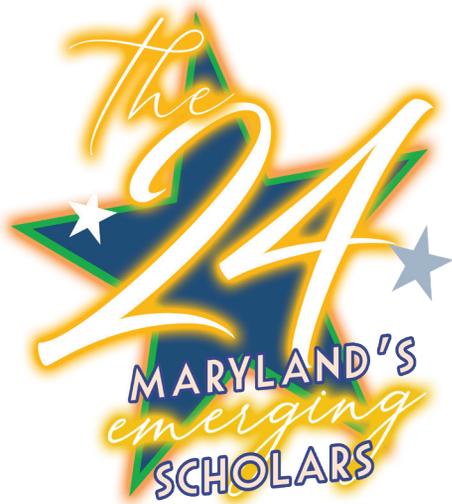
The
24: *Emerging*
SCHOLARS

for their dedication to academic
excellence and community leadership

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TABLE of CONTENTS



AWARD CRITERIA:

- Recognizes Maryland high school students in grades 9-12, with one student per district selected
- Student academic achievement with a minimum of a 2.5 GPA
- Dedication to community involvement
- Compassionate leaders in their schools
- Extra points awarded for participation in MBRT programs and career interests involving STEM.

PAGE 4

Message from the Managing Director of The Daily Record

PAGE 5

Message from the Executive Director of the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education

PAGES 7 - 30 MARYLAND'S EMERGING SCHOLARS

Briana Ciccarelli, *Allegany County*
Kayla Morrison, *Anne Arundel County*
Naomi Boldon, *Baltimore City*
Moréoluwa Falae, *Baltimore County*
Rondy Le, *Calvert County*
Shari Macario Deleon, *Caroline County*
Trisha Savalia, *Carroll County*
Lillian Martin, *Cecil County*
Sydni Hawkins, *Charles County*
Christian McNamara, *Dorchester County*
Kiera Kincaid, *Frederick County*
Brady Garlitz, *Garrett County*
Sophia Reinert, *Harford County*
Ilerioluwa Adubi, *Howard County*
McKenzie Smith, *Kent County*
Siddharth Karnati, *Montgomery County*
Chelsea Ejerenwa, *Prince George's County*
Jasmin Cota, *Queen Anne's County*
Renee Hale, *Somerset County*
Aarav Sharma, *St. Mary's County*
Tessa Diefenderfer, *Talbot County*
Nora Murthy, *Washington County*
Sheraz Ahmad, *Wicomico County*
Alaina Alvarado, *Worcester County*

MARYLAND
THE DAILY RECORD

The Daily Record is excited to once again be partnering with Maryland Business Roundtable for Education on The 24: Maryland's Emerging Scholars award. This program builds on a partnership of almost 30 years to introduce students to the tools they need to be successful in college and their careers.

For the third year, The Daily Record is proud to collaborate with MBRT to honor and recognize 24 extraordinary students from each of Maryland's school districts.

MBRT and The Daily Record have worked together for decades to produce the award-winning, Way to Be publication (formerly Be What I Want to Be) which is a bi-lingual (English-front and Spanish-back), college and career readiness guide, which helps students through the process of choosing a college and future careers. It highlights profiles of people and various professions from around the state.

The students you will meet in this publication were chosen from a group of over 500 applicants to be the 2026 Emerging Scholars. These inspiring young leaders strive for academic excellence while balancing the demands of work, extra-curricular activities, community service, family and friends - never losing sight of their commitment to making a lasting, positive impact on their schools, communities, and futures.

These students are leaders and show us that the future is bright across Maryland. We look forward to seeing them continue to develop and grow.



Suzanne Fischer-Huettner, Managing Director
BridgeTower Media, The Daily Record



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Christopher Thorn | *Chief Information and Operations Officer*

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Stella Edwards | *Special Publication Designer*



It is with great pride that the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education (MBRT) recognizes the 2026 recipients of *The 24: Maryland's Emerging Scholars* awards, an exceptional group of students whose achievements reflect the promise of Maryland's future.

Produced in partnership with *The Daily Record*, *The 24* honors one outstanding high school student from each of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions. Selected from over 300 applicants statewide, this year's class of Emerging Scholars exemplify academic excellence, leadership, and service, making meaningful contributions to their schools and communities while preparing for lives of purpose and impact.

At MBRT, we believe college and career readiness is a shared responsibility, strengthened through collaboration among families, educators, businesses, and communities. This year's awards are presented at the conclusion of MBRT's annual Youth Congress Day in Annapolis, underscoring the connection between civic engagement, education, and leadership. As these students witness government in action and are honored for their accomplishments, they remind us of what is possible when young people are empowered to lead.

To our Emerging Scholars—congratulations. Your dedication and vision inspire us, and we look forward to all you will achieve. To the families, educators, and mentors who have supported these students, thank you for helping shape the leaders we celebrate today.

We are deeply grateful to our event sponsors Whiting Turner and Pepco, and MBRT members for their continued commitment to Maryland's students. Together, we are building pathways to opportunity for the next generation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Markley Schreiber".

Sharon Markley Schreiber, Executive Director
Maryland Business Roundtable for Education

Founded in 1992, the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education (MBRT) is a coalition of leading employers that have made a long-term commitment to support education reform and improve student achievement in Maryland. MBRT drives meaningful partnerships between business, government and education that empower student achievement to meet Maryland's talent needs. For more information, visit <http://www.mbrt.org/>.



Joining Forces for a **Brighter** Tomorrow

Together with Maryland Business Roundtable for Education, we're on a mission to ensure local students have access to the skills and knowledge needed for long-term success.

As we expand career opportunities in the communities we proudly call home, we take a step closer toward a more equitable energy workforce – one that's reflective of the diverse communities we serve.

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Briana Ciccarelli

Fort Hill High School,
Allegany County



Grade: 10 | GPA: 4.1 | Community Service Hours: 30

Leadership Roles and Compassionate Initiatives

Briana is a leader on and off the field. As an active member of Fort Hill High School's Cross Country, Track & Field, and Unified Football teams, she enjoys being involved. With a strong passion for her school, Unified Bocce Ball teams, and community service, she is also actively involved in Sentinel Support and serves as treasurer of her local 4-H club.

Outside of school, Briana also joined the American Red Cross Organization and volunteers at her local hospital. Briana is extremely passionate about helping people in any way she can.

Future Career Goals

In the future, Briana hopes to pursue a career as a neurosurgeon. As a member of the Future Congress of Medical Leaders, she has planned out the necessary steps to accomplish this goal, including the college she hopes to attend and the hospital where she hopes to spend her career.

Additional Information

Briana is in UBMS Math and Science and has been recognized as a HOBY representative for her class. She also is active with the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education as a Next Generation Scholar and Student Ambassador.





Kayla Morrison

Meade High School,
Anne Arundel County



Grade: 12 | GPA: 4.4 | Community Service Hours: 61

Leadership Roles and Compassionate Initiatives

Kayla Morrison is an actively engaged student leader at Meade High School, serving as Vice President of the Model United Nations Club and Vice President of the National Honor Society. In these roles, she contributes to organizational leadership and member engagement. Her leadership expands into the arts and academics through her role as historian of the Drama Club, where she helps preserve and highlight the club's productions and activities. Her academic achievements are reflected in her membership in multiple honor societies, including Rho Kappa, Spanish, and Science Honor Societies. In addition, she highlights her dedication to both academics and creative expression through her role as a soloist in her school's Gospel Choir Club.

Future Career Goals

Kayla plans to major in Psychology and Biological Sciences with the long-term goal of entering the field of psychology or medicine. Her passion stems from a desire to understand how the brain and behavior connect, and she hopes to pursue a career supporting individuals facing mental health challenges. To better prepare herself, Kayla is currently exploring possible paths like psychiatry or clinical psychology, hoping to gain research experience and clinical exposure.

Additional Information

Kayla is the first double winner of "The 24: Maryland's Emerging Scholars", as she was also part of the Class of 2025 Awardees. Kayla is a Maryland Business Roundtable for Education Student Ambassador, honing her networking skills by engaging with likeminded students statewide.





Naomi Boldon

Baltimore City College
High School,
Baltimore City



Grade: 12 | GPA: 5.3 | Community Service Hours: 420

Leadership Roles and Compassionate Initiatives

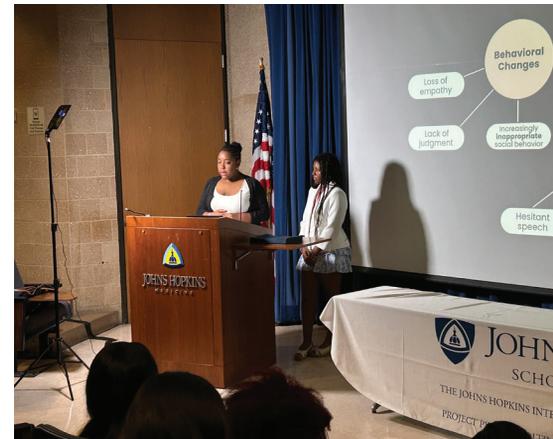
Naomi Boldon has demonstrated exceptional leadership through initiatives that combine education and service. She cooperated a math tutoring center that supported over 1,400 students and mentored elementary learners through the Knights of Public Service. As president of Doctors of Tomorrow, she organized life-saving training programs, including CPR and Narcan instruction, reflecting her commitment to empowering others and improving community health.

Future Career Goals

Naomi aspires to study neuroscience and become a neurodevelopmental pediatrician. Her passion stems from research on frontotemporal dementia at Johns Hopkins and her work with Special Olympics athletes, where she learned to communicate with nonverbal individuals. She is dedicated to understanding brain mechanisms and advocating for inclusive care, aiming to raise awareness and develop solutions for those with neurological challenges.

Additional Information

She founded The Embold Project to empower Black girls through natural hair education and combat chronic absenteeism. Naomi has raised \$13,000, partnered with major brands, and gifted over 600 hair products to her community. Beyond activism, she coaches gymnastics, mentors new coaches, and created research-based, inclusive gymnastics lesson plans. Her creativity and leadership extend to tutoring and teaching, making her a transformative force in education and advocacy.





Moréoluwa Falae

Perry Hall High School,
Baltimore County



Grade: 10 | GPA: 4.4 | Community Service Hours: 56

Leadership Roles and Compassionate Initiatives

Moréoluwa Falae stands out as a dynamic leader within her school community. She serves as President of her sophomore class, where she advocates for student needs and organizes impactful initiatives. Additionally, she is the creative director of the African Student Association, contributing to service projects that benefit both her school and local community. Her leadership extends to academic enrichment programs, where she mentors peers and fosters a culture of collaboration and excellence. These roles demonstrate her ability to lead with integrity and compassion, qualities that make her a role model among her peers.

Future Career Goals

Moréoluwa plans to major in psychology with aspirations to become a psychiatric nurse. She is interested in the connection between the mind and human behavior, and notes that she excels at understanding people and navigating difficult situations. Her desire to nourish others' mental health while staying in the healthcare field has inspired her future path.

Additional Information

Filled with school spirit, Moréoluwa is a team captain for Stomp and Shake cheer. She also has had two of her original poems, "The Last Petal" and "Solace", published in Perry Hall High's vignette magazine.





Rondy Le

Huntingtown High School,
Calvert County



Grade: 12 | GPA: 4.28 | Community Service Hours: 85

Leadership Roles and Compassionate Initiatives

Rondy Le has served as Vice President of Mu Alpha Theta and Biomed Club, where he organized events, strengthened member engagement, and promoted STEM opportunities. As an AP Ambassador, he encourages his peers to embrace academic challenges and explore advanced coursework. These roles reflect his commitment to advocacy and inspiring peers to reach their full potential.

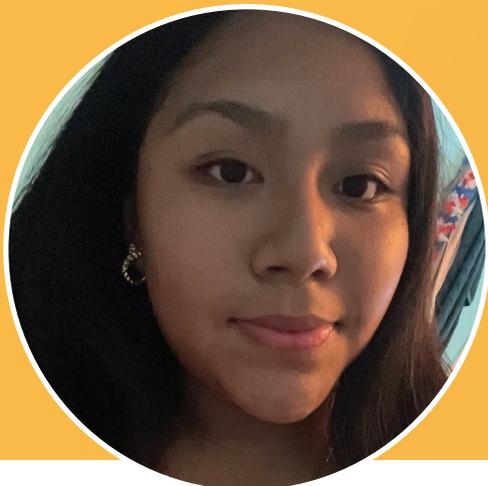
Future Career Goals

Rondy plans to pursue a career in medicine, aspiring to become either an orthopedic surgeon or an ENT surgeon. His goal is to combine precision and compassionate care to improving patients' lives while contributing to advancements in healthcare.

Additional Information

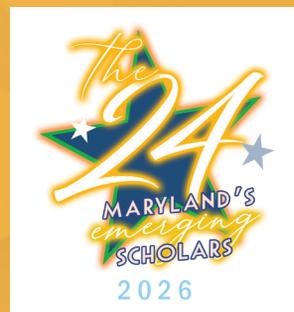
Rondy strives to merge creativity with analytical thinking, shaping his approach to leadership and learning. He is also committed to mastering languages—currently fluent in English, Vietnamese, and Spanish—to connect with diverse cultures and enhance his future medical career. This lifelong pursuit demonstrates his curiosity and dedication to global understanding.





Shari Macario Deleon

North Carolina High School,
Caroline County



Grade: 12 | GPA: 4.16 | Community Service Hours: 367

Leadership Roles and Compassionate Initiatives

As the Vice President of North Carolina High's Leo Club, Shari Macario Deleon helps lead multiple impactful community projects, including an annual food drive that collects over 3,000 pounds of goods for a local church. She is a member of the Class of 2026 Executive Committee and served as the lead chair for the development of the first annual NCHS Unity Fair, a community event showcasing school diversity and student achievement. A recipient of the Maryland Seal of Biliteracy, Shari supports her Spanish-speaking peers by presenting translated daily announcements.

Future Career Goals

Shari has recently received her CNA and GNA certifications and participates in an apprenticeship as a Resident Care Aide at local care facility. After graduation, she plans to attend a four-year college to earn her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). Following nursing school, Shari intends to continue her education with the long-term goal of becoming a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA).

Additional Information

Alongside her extensive volunteer service, Shari maintains a rigorous academic schedule that includes multiple AP and Dual Enrollment courses. She has been recognized as an AP Scholar and represented her district as a Maryland AP Day advocate. She is also an active member of the NCHS chapters of the National Honor Society and the National Spanish Honor Society.





Trisha Savalia

Century High School,
Carroll County



Grade: 11 | GPA: 4.4 | Community Service Hours: 663

Leadership Roles and Compassionate Initiatives

Trisha Savalia has embraced leadership through multiple executive board roles, including Secretary of the Class Executive Board, Vice President of the Spanish Honor Society and serves on the National Honor Society Executive Board. She also serves as Reporter for SkillsUSA and Historian for the Century Music Club, managing communications and social media. Beyond school, she leads volunteer efforts at the Boys and Girls Club of Westminster, planning activities and mentoring youth to build teamwork and confidence.

Future Career Goals

Trisha plans to attend University of Maryland with the intention of becoming an Aerospace Engineer. Currently, she is one of two students completing a two-year internship through the Northrop Grumman High School Involvement Partnership Program.

Additional Information

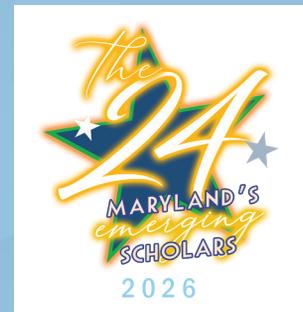
Trisha is deeply committed to academics, music, and community service. She participates in the Century Marching Band as a Color Guard Member and has performed in the Towson University Honors Orchestra. With over 663 service hours, she received the Freedom District Lions Club Service Hour Award, which she considers one of her proudest accomplishments and earned first place in the Maryland Council on Economic Education poster content.





Lillian Martin

North East High School,
Cecil County



Grade: 11 | GPA: 4.5 | Community Service Hours: 210

Leadership Roles and Compassionate Initiatives

As drum major for the Blue Crew marching band, Lillian Martin leads her peers in practices and performances, encouraging them to be their best. She also is a leader in Fellowship of Christian Athletes, where she creates lessons and organizes events for her peers. As an active member of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Lillian's dedication has qualified her for the state competitive event. She also manages track and cross-country teams, as well as serves as camp counselor, fostering teamwork, safety and fun for children. These experiences have instilled patience, empathy and strong organizational skills.

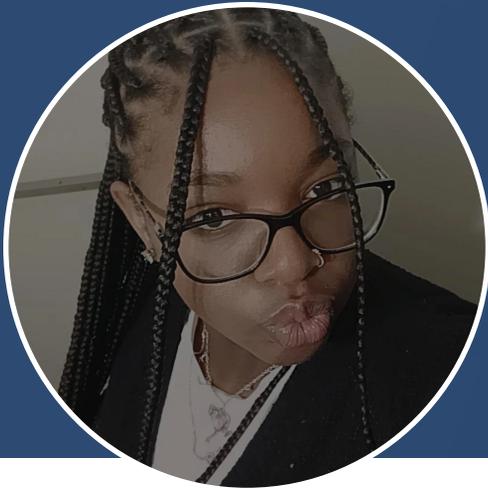
Future Career Goals

Lillian aspires to become an Occupational Therapist specializing in pediatrics for individuals with special needs and disabilities. Hoping to better serve diverse communities, she also aims to earn a bilingual seal, with plans to advocate for affordable healthcare access in underserved areas.

Additional Information

An active and accomplished student, Lillian runs track and cross-country year-round, qualifying and competing in the Maryland Cross Country Championships. Her passion for music drives her participation in Jazz Band and Marching Band, as well as playing the viola in All County Orchestra. She is involved in multiple school organizations, including Future Business Leaders of America, Honors Spanish Club and National Honor Society. With seven AP courses completed and more planned, she exemplifies dedication, time management and a passion for learning and service.





Sydni Hawkins

Thomas Stone High School,
Charles County



Grade: 11 | GPA: 4.4 | Community Service Hours: 75

Leadership Roles and Compassionate Initiatives

Sydni Hawkins currently serves as the vice president of Thomas Stone High School's HOSA club. She is passionate about contributing to her school's environment and is active in getting more of her peers involved. She has run for a leadership position in Student Government Association, as well as assisted in the planning and implementation of pep rally and spirit week functions.

Future Career Goals

With a desire to serve in a clinic setting, Sydni aspires to work in pediatric healthcare, as either a pediatrician or pediatric nurse. Wanting to build strong connections with patients to provide compassionate care, her goal is to help children overcome health challenges and ensure they can live fulfilling lives despite setbacks.

Additional Information

Sydni completed an internship at Georgetown University, where she gained hands-on experience in medical procedures such as suturing, intubation, CPR, phlebotomy, and ultrasound. She also helped design a community education workshop addressing nutritional anemia—all while balancing a job.





Christian McNamara

Cambridge-South Dorchester
High School,
Dorchester County



Grade: 12 | GPA: 4.0 | Community Service Hours: 106.5

Leadership Roles and Compassionate Initiatives

Christian McNamara has taken on numerous leadership roles, including serving as Student Board Representative for Dorchester County, Student Government Association Class Officer, and Head Judge for Teen Court. He co-founded the debate club, leads the Healthcare Society and participates in Interact Club and Maryland Business Roundtable for Education's Next Generation Scholars program. Through these positions, Christian advocates for student voices, promotes healthcare education, and organizes community service initiatives that strengthen school and community connections. Christian also serves as Team Captain for Track & Field.

Future Career Goals

Christian McNamara plans to become a cosmetic dentist, focusing on improving smiles and boosting confidence. His goal is to combine technical expertise with compassion, ensuring his work enhances both individual lives and the broader community.

Additional Information

As Head Judge of Teen Court, Christian provides second chances for students by offering restorative opportunities through community service. His deep-rooted commitment to love and community drives his involvement in more than 10 programs within his school and local community. Witnessing positive change motivates him to continue leading initiatives that make a meaningful impact.





Kiera Kincaid

Middletown High School,
Frederick County



Grade: 11 | GPA: 4.0 | Community Service Hours: 209

Leadership Roles and Compassionate Initiatives

Kiera Kincaid founded Middletown High School's HOSA club, an organization for future health professionals, and she serves as its president. Outside of school, Kiera teaches a faith formation class to 4th graders at her church.

Future Career Goals

Kiera aspires to become a pediatric dentist, driven by her passion for working with children and ensuring they feel comfortable during dental visits. Her goal is to promote healthy habits and positive experiences that support lifelong oral health.

Additional Information

Kiera discovered her career path during a mission trip to Guatemala, where she assisted a dentist in applying fluoride and distributing dental care kits to children. She hopes to continue similar outreach as a dentist, traveling to underserved communities worldwide to provide essential care and education.





Brady Garlitz

Northern Garrett High School,
Garrett County



Grade: 11 | GPA: 4.4 | Community Service Hours: 101

Leadership Roles and Compassionate Initiatives

Brady Garlitz holds numerous leadership positions, including Class of 2027 President and North Garrett FFA Chapter President. He leads meetings, organizes events, and represents his chapter at state conventions. Brady also serves as Chairman of the Banquet Committee, Letterman's Club Treasurer, and Garrett County Livestock Association Representative. In 2025, he represented Northern Garrett High as the HOBY Maryland Ambassador. Beyond school, he holds leadership roles in 4-H and is active with the Garrett County Farm Bureau, demonstrating a strong commitment to service and advocacy.

Future Career Goals

Brady plans to pursue a college degree in political science and agriculture before attending law school. His goal is to become a lawyer and politician, advocating for farmers' rights and support legislation that benefits agricultural communities. His vision combines legal expertise with a passion for policy reform and rural development.

Additional Information

In addition to his school leadership roles, Brady is an accomplished student-athlete and agricultural leader. He has competed in state-level cross country championships, as well as earned Reserve Grand Champion Swine Showman through his 4-H involvement. His achievements include national recognition in FFA competitions, innovation projects in First Lego League, and consistent success in public speaking.





Sophia Reinert

North Harford High School,
Harford County



Grade: 12 | GPA: 4.23 | Community Service Hours: 315

Leadership Roles and Compassionate Initiatives

Sophia Reinert serves as Vice President of North Harford High School's largest student-run club, FFA, and has been an officer for three years. She co-founded the school's first Girl Up chapter to promote gender equality and leads community service initiatives, including organizing donations for the Harford Humane Society. Sophia also mentors freshmen and provides academic support through multiple honor societies, reflecting her dedication to leadership and service.

Future Career Goals

Sophia plans to pursue a degree in biology with a pre-veterinary focus at an in-state university. Her hands-on experience as an unregistered technician at Jarrettsville Veterinary Clinic has strengthened her passion for animal care and biological sciences. She hopes to combine her academic knowledge and practical skills to build a career dedicated to helping animals and advancing veterinary medicine.

Additional Information

Sophia is a dual-enrolled student at Harford Community College and participates in the NRAS magnet program specializing in animal science. She is currently completing a capstone project on how wild bird migrations affect avian influenza in poultry livestock, mentored by Maryland's State Veterinarian, Dr. Jennifer Trout. Her academic rigor and research experience underscore her commitment to science and community impact.





Ilerioluwa Adubi

Reservoir High School,
Howard County



Grade: 11 | GPA: 4.93 | Community Service Hours: 250

Leadership Roles and Compassionate Initiatives

Ilerioluwa Adubi has demonstrated exceptional leadership through roles such as Policy Representative for the Howard County Association of Student Councils, Vice President of VolunTeens, and Debate Captain. She has spearheaded voter registration drives, mentored peers, and organized community service projects benefiting hundreds. Her initiatives include founding research projects, advising state education leaders, and serving as Deputy Chief Advisor to the Maryland Student Member of the Board of Education, showcasing her commitment to civic engagement and policy reform.

Future Career Goals

Ilerioluwa envisions a future shaped by innovation and public service. Her current research as an intern at the Laurel Mayor's Office explores how advanced AI systems can transform local governance, streamline operations, and improve energy efficiency, as well as how certain strategies can be used to increase youth engagement in local sustainability initiatives. While passionate about technology, she also aspires to pursue careers in law, legislation, and entrepreneurship. With interests spanning policy, civic engagement, and artificial intelligence, she is determined to pursue paths that create meaningful impact across multiple fields.

Additional Information

Ilerioluwa is a dynamic scholar and leader, fluent in Mandarin and pursuing advanced studies in AP Chinese. She has earned national recognition for debate, completed prestigious research programs, and serves as an executive assistant for a nonprofit focused on civic engagement. Her ongoing projects in AI and governance reflect her ambition to bridge technology and public service, positioning her as a future leader in both fields.





McKenzie Smith

Kent County High School,
Kent County



Grade: 12 | GPA: 3.86 | Community Service Hours: 137

Leadership Roles and Compassionate Initiatives

McKenzie Smith leads as captain of the girls' cross-country team, pit section leader for the marching band, and president of the National Art Honor Society. She also tutors peers in math and assists her coding team with practice problems to prepare for the competition in late winter. McKenzie also is an active participant in Maryland Business Roundtable for Education's (MBRT) Next Generation Scholars program.

Future Career Goals

McKenzie plans to attend a college or university to pursue a creative design major, ideally studying abroad to gain global perspectives. Her goal is to combine artistic innovation with cultural experiences, preparing for a career that blends creativity and international influence.

Additional Information

McKenzie has earned two sportsmanship awards and values community engagement. She believes that helping peers fosters a stronger, more connected environment. Her dedication to leadership, academics, and service reflects a desire to make a positive impact both locally and globally.





Siddharth Karnati

Clarksburg High School,
Montgomery County



Grade: 11 | GPA: 3.9 | Community Service Hours: 160

Leadership Roles and Compassionate Initiatives

Siddharth Karnati is the founder of Spectrum Guardians, a student-led nonprofit supporting neurodiverse and special-needs students through inclusive sports, mentoring, and volunteering. As Mental Health Deputy in Student Government, he launched the BrainBoost Case Study, integrating neuroscience and wearable technology to explore stress and performance. He also leads as President of the Stock Market Club and Chess Club, fostering financial literacy, strategic thinking, and community engagement.

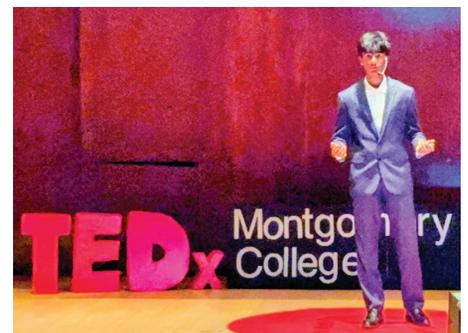
Future Career Goals

Siddharth plans to pursue a career in neurosurgery and neurotechnology, combining medicine, data, and innovation to improve brain and mental health outcomes. His interest in AI-driven wearables and mental health research drives his commitment to developing solutions that not only heal but empower understanding.

Beyond clinical work, he aims to expand initiatives like Spectrum Guardians advocating for mental wellness and inclusion.

Additional Information

Siddharth is a TEDx Youth Speaker who delivered the talk *“Teen Sports: The Therapy We Never Talk About”* and authored *More Than Grades: Finding True Happiness as a Teen*, both emphasizing emotional wellness and balance. Committed to service, he volunteers as an SAT tutor, assist seniors at the Jupiter Senior Center, and has supported patient care in hospitals. A football coach for 10U and 11U girls, he also has competed nationally in long jump and triple jump at the AAU Junior Olympics.





Chelsea Ejerenwa

Bladensburg High School,
Prince George's County



Grade: 12 | GPA: 3.5 | Community Service Hours: 80

Leadership Roles and Compassionate Initiatives

Chelsea Ejerenwa is active within her school community as an End Times Harvest Ambassador, serves as secretary for the editing team, and contributing member of her local Green Team. She is also a member of National Honor Society, Jr SHPE club, and Math Club, actively working to bring Math Honor Society to her school.. Chelsea is also a Maryland Business Roundtable for Education (MBRT) Student Ambassador.

When not participating in club meetings or functions, Chelsea volunteers in her school's library.

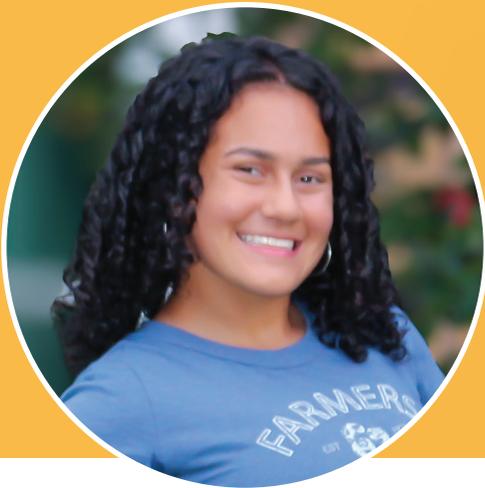
Future Career Goals

Chelsea plans to pursue a bachelor's degree, double majoring in Aerospace Engineering and Physics. She aspires to intern at NASA while in college, eventually working in the aeronautical sector of aerospace engineering. She desires to return to Bladensburg High School in the future, this time as a volunteer, to give back to future students in the Engineers Club.

Additional Information

Chelsea is actively networking with current University of Maryland engineering students, who often mentor students during Engineers Club. She is determined to gain volunteer or internship experience to contribute to her career goals.





Jasmin Cota

Kent Island High School,
Queen Anne's County



Grade: 10 | GPA: 4.0 | Community Service Hours: 80

Leadership Roles and Compassionate Initiatives

Jasmin Cota demonstrates strong leadership and service through peer tutoring and active membership in the Math Honor Society and Purple Start Club. A dedicated volunteer, she founded and leads the Travis Manion Youth Club, which bring the mission of helping others through service to her school.

In addition to volunteer and service, Jasmin is also a varsity soccer midfielder and competes as a long-distance runner in both indoor and outdoor track.

Future Career Goals

Jasmin aims to attend the Naval Academy or other 4-year college as a student-athlete. She plans to study biomedical or aerospace engineering.

Additional Information

Last year, Jasmin was the recipient of the Midfielder of the Year award for her contribution on the soccer field, as well as the Most Improved award in outdoor track and field.





Renee Hale

Crisfield Academy and
High School,
Somerset County



Grade: 10 | GPA: 4.0 | Community Service Hours: 120

Leadership Roles and Compassionate Initiatives

Renee Hale holds multiple leadership roles in school and community initiatives. As Student Government Association Vice President and a Crisfield Chamber Youth Ambassador, she leads outreach events, including organizing a memorial tailgate, and managing the World's Largest Rubber Duck Festival. A peer tutor in Government, Algebra, and Biomedical studies, she also oversees morning announcements and manages the cross-country team, ensuring academic and athletic success. Renee was recently inducted into Crisfield Academy and High School's Leo Club, where she participated in the local Winter Wellness Festival.

Future Career Goals

Renee aspires to become an ultrasound technician, aiming to work in a hospital's emergency department. She currently is enrolled in the biomedical program through her school, preparing for her future career through exposure by utilizing the latest technology.

Additional Information

Passionate about using her voice, Renee penned a letter to the Somerset County Board of Education and created a petition to change the uniform policy to a dress code, which gained support of over 500 signatures. Most recently, she was inducted into her school's Quill & Scroll Honor Society, which recognizes students for their work in journalism, publishing, and academics. She also has achievements in dances, choir and theater, and has achieved Principal's Roll each school year for the past 12 years. Outside of school, Renee is active in her church community.





Aarav Sharma

Great Mills High School,
St. Mary's County



Grade: 12 | GPA: 4.64 | Community Service Hours: 600

Leadership Roles and Compassionate Initiatives

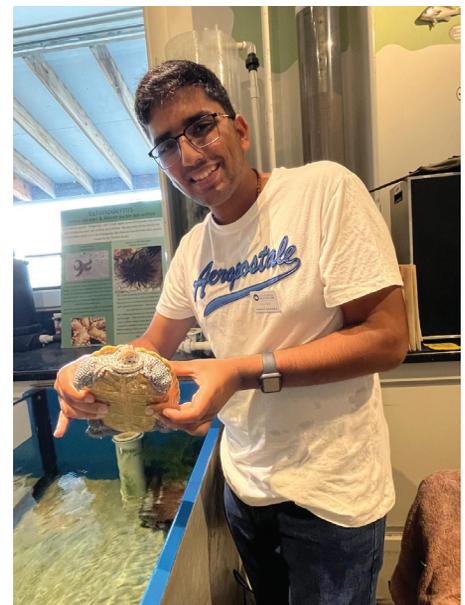
Aarav Sharma has taken on several leadership roles at Great Mills High School and in his community. He founded and currently serves as president of the Red Cross Club, where he leads blood drives by coordinating volunteers and increasing donor turnout. Beyond school-based leadership, Aarav is an advocate with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, where he led two intensive, seven-week Student Visionaries of the Year campaigns that raised over \$100,000 for blood cancer research. Through this work, he organized outreach efforts, built community partnerships, and mobilized peers around a shared mission of advocacy and service. Aarav also serves as a flight simulator instructor at the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum, where he works with visitors of all ages, emphasizing clear communication, teamwork, and adaptability. Across these roles, he has consistently focused on translating responsibility into action and creating meaningful impact through service and leadership.

Future Career Goals

Aarav plans to pursue a career as a physician, focusing on improving access to care in underserved communities. Growing up in rural Southern Maryland, Aarav witnessed how delays in healthcare can affect families. Through hands-on EMS experience volunteering with Lexington Park Volunteer Rescue Squad, Aarav is developing his skills that will serve families better in emergent situations. He hopes to combine clinical work, research, and community health efforts to make care more equitable.

Additional Information

In addition to service, leadership and research, Aarav is an International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) finalist and has earned multiple regional and state-level science awards. He also published a research paper on the mental health effects of COVID-19 in the Vanderbilt Young Scientist Journal, expanding his understanding of scientific inquiry and inspired him to continue to pursue research at a higher level.





Tessa Diefenderfer

Easton High School,
Talbot County



Grade: 10 | GPA: 4.0 | Community Service Hours: 97.5

Leadership Roles and Compassionate Initiatives

At Easton High School, Tessa Diefenderfer leads through reliability, empathy, and example. A role-model student with perfect attendance, she actively supports classmates and contributes thoughtfully in class. Beyond school, she serves as president of her local 4-H club, previously treasurer, and participates in Upward Bound, reflecting a consistent commitment to leadership, service, and personal growth.

Future Career Goals

Tessa plans to challenge herself academically by taking AP and college-level courses throughout high school. She aspires to pursue a career in architecture or engineering, with plans to earn a bachelor's degree and ultimately a doctorate. She is actively researching colleges and coursework that align with her professional goals and preferred learning environments.

Additional Information

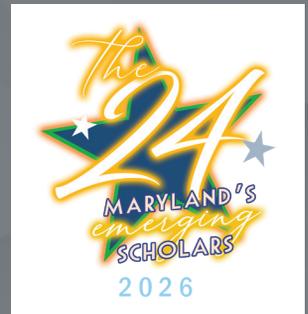
Tessa's achievements span academics, leadership, and national-level competition. She has earned multiple academic excellence awards, five Carson Scholar recognitions, and the National Junior Honor Society Outstanding Achievement Award. Highly active in 4-H and Equestrian sports, she has competed nationally, secured sponsorships and was featured in *Equestrian Vaulting USA* magazine, demonstrating self initiation, discipline, and ambition.





Nora Murthy

Boyd J. Michael III High School,
Washington County



Grade: 12 | GPA: 4.33 | Community Service Hours: 275

Leadership Roles and Compassionate Initiatives

Nora Murthy has demonstrated exceptional civic and student leadership at the local and state levels. As Washington County's Student Member of the Board of Education, she advocates for students on legislative issues. She also serves with Washington County Association of Student Councils (WCASC), helping organize student advocacy trips to Annapolis, co-founded the Women's Giving Circle of Washington County, and leads as president of her school's National Technical Honor Society. At her previous high school, she founded her school's International Club to welcome students from all different cultures and served as the Hub Band Drum Major.

Future Career Goals

Nora plans to attend a four-year university to study computer science, with a focus on cybersecurity or data science. She is particularly interested in advocating for the ethical development and use of artificial intelligence, ensuring responsible data practices and consent-based technology as AI continues to shape society.

Additional Information

Nora is enrolled in her school's CISCO/AI program and has earned four computer science certifications in Python, Networking, IT Support, and Cybersecurity. She has helped plan a statewide student convention hosting more than 1,000 attendees and brings a strong blend of technical expertise, policy insight, and leadership experience to her future aspirations.





Sheraz Ahmad

Wicomico High School,
Wicomico County



Grade: 11 | GPA: 3.95 | Community Service Hours: 150

Leadership Roles and Compassionate Initiatives

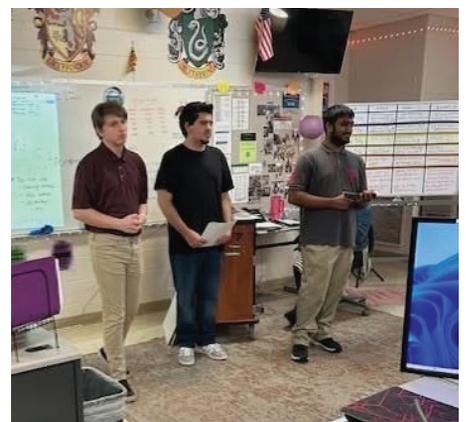
At Wicomico High School, Sheraz Ahmad serves as Student Government Association president, leading a body of more than 100 students while fundraising and elevating student concerns. He also represents the student voice on the school's Instructional Leadership Team, regularly presenting student needs to administrators. Sheraz is also an active member of Maryland Business Roundtable for Education's Next Generation Scholars program. Across roles, Sheraz is known for advocacy, inclusion, and a commitment to helping peers succeed.

Future Career Goals

Sheraz plans to pursue postsecondary studies in science or mathematics, with an interest in contributing to scientific research. While exploring specific pathways, he remains committed to staying connected to his community and continuing to advocate for others, using education and research as tools for service and positive change.

Additional Information

Sheraz is a SkillsUSA Statesman Award recipient, holds three IT certifications, and is an alumnus of HOBY. He serves as treasurer of the National Honor Society and is a member of Spanish and Math honor societies. From cybersecurity competitions to theater and environmental advocacy, Sheraz values helping others achieve their own definition of success.





Alaina Alvarado

Snow Hill High School,
Worcester County



Grade: 11 | GPA: 4.0 | Community Service Hours: 80

Leadership Roles and Compassionate Initiatives

Alaina Alvarado is deeply committed to service, mentorship, and community-building at Snow Hill High School and beyond. She has served on a student board involved in selecting her county's superintendent and mentors three freshmen. Outside school, she volunteers extensively through her church, working with young children and mentoring middle and high school students, leading with empathy, reliability, and a belief in service rooted in compassion. In 2025, she attended the HOBY Leadership Conference at Towson University as an ambassador for her school.

Future Career Goals

Alaina aspires to pursue a career in psychology, with a specific focus on child psychology. She hopes to study human development and work clinically with children, using her knowledge to help young people understand their minds, heal, and grow. Long-term, she envisions serving children globally through mission-driven work that combines education, care, and mental health support.

Additional Information

Guided by a strong belief in loving others first, Alaina is driven by a desire to create a brighter future for her community and beyond. As a member of the Beta Club, Mu Alpha Theta, and the National Honor Society, Alaina was honored with the Nancy Delano Award, presented to a National Honor Society inductee in remembrance of a local teacher. She is motivated by service and connection, aspiring to positively impact not only those close to her but families and children around the world.



For complete information or to reserve your space, call MBRT at 410-788-0333 or email morgan@mbrt.org.



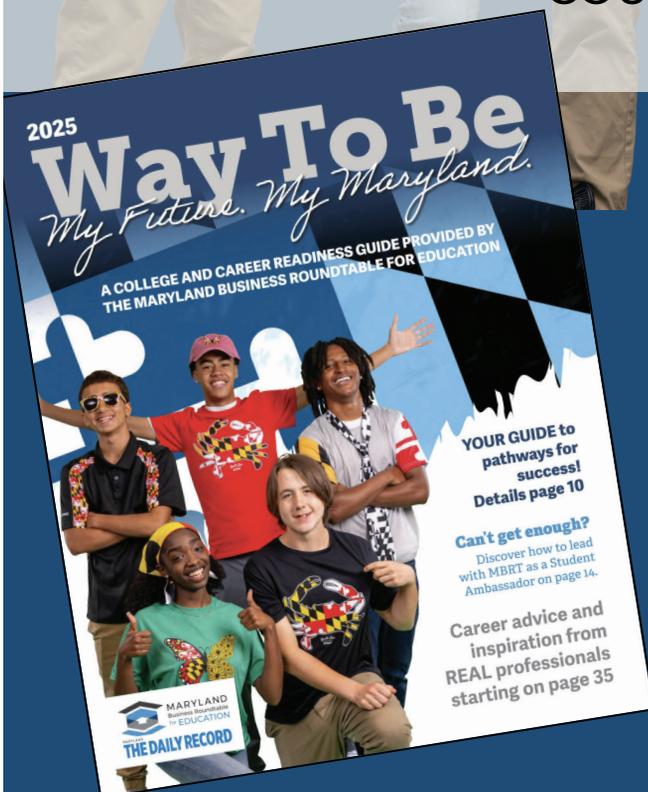
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