

For Immediate Release
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Cincinnati YMCA Youth Return From National Conference With Two of Highest Honors

August 10, 2009 -- Eight Cincinnati teens from the YMCA Youth in City Government Program represented Ohio at the YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs and returned with two of the highest honors presented.

Held in North Carolina, the Conference hosted teen delegations from across the country with goals of deepening their understanding of national issues and federal government; and fostering a greater ability to communicate effectively with leadership skills.

Prior to the event, students were required to select a national or international issue and develop a plan of action for resolving it. They argued for their proposal in a committee process with a final goal of presenting it to the General Assembly or Plenary. Only 10 proposals – out of 580 – made it to the General Assembly and, for the FIRST time in Ohio's history, a member of the 2009 team was among them.

Ari Shoyrer, a recent graduate from the School for Creative & Performing Arts who will be attending Roosevelt University, won that honor. Shroyer also was selected to serve as one of six presiding officers for next year's conference.

"I am extremely proud of each of our students who participated. They spent a great deal of time preparing and they learned so much about government. Being a part of the YMCA Youth in City Government Program will be a tremendous benefit to them in college and beyond," said Jana Lavelle Natterman, YMCA of Greater Cincinnati Youth Zone director.

Other YMCA Youth in City Government teens who attended the conference are: Emmalee Kinard (a graduate of SCPA); Christina Jones (attending Aldersgate Christian Academy); Ke'Vaughn McDowell (attending Hughes Center High School); Andrew Naab (attending St. Xavier); Steven Yee (attending SCPA); Heather Couch (a graduate of Aldersgate Christian Academy); and Maggie Kissinger (attending Mother of Mercy High School).

As the area's largest youth and family-focused not-for-profit, the YMCA reinforces character values through assets-based programs and services to more than 143,000 individuals, kids and families annually. Adult mentors encourage young people to be caring, responsible, respectful, and honest through sports, summer camps, structured child and afterschool care, and leadership building programs. Branches offer quality time for families, resources for parents, and a variety of opportunities for seniors to be active. The Membership for All sliding scale fee structure means everyone, no matter their ability to pay, can always benefit from the YMCA.

Last year alone more than 17,400 families and individuals enjoyed healthier and happier lives because generous partners helped the YMCA in its vision to be accessible to all.

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Photo:

Back Row – Cleves resident Emmalee Kinard, graduate of SCPA; Mt. Adams resident Ari Shoryer, graduate of SCPA; Kennedy Heights resident Christina Jones, attending Aldersgate Christian Academy; Elmwood Place resident Ke'Vaughn McDowell, attending Hughes Center High School; Hamilton resident Andrew Naab, attending St. Xavier High School; Hyde Park resident Steven Yee attending SCPA.

Front Row – Newport, Kentucky resident Heather Couch, graduate of Adersgate Christian Academy; Westwood resident Maggie Kissinger, attending Mother of Mercy High School