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**Prince George's County Drug Policy Coalition, Inc. (PGCDPC) awards 10 scholarships to students for its annual "Empowering Future Leaders" scholarship awards program.**

OXON HILL, M.D., September 12, 2022 - The Prince George's County Drug Policy Coalition, Inc. awarded 10 scholarships to students for its annual "Empowering Future Leaders" scholarship awards program. Student applications were reviewed by the Coalition's scholarship awards committee chaired by Jerome "Duke" Haggins. Maryland State Senator Obie Patterson provided citations recognizing their academic achievements.

The ten students receiving scholarships this year were: Trinity Gourdin, Cassandra Swilley, Arielle Swilley, Evelyn Anderson, Kelsey Gourdin, Webster Jackson, Jada Riley, Matthew Waits, Jabari Riley and Marlon Waits. Two of the students were high school graduates, attending either St. Stephens and St. Agnes High School, or Suitland High School. Other recipients are currently attending either the University of Miami, Frostburg State University, Towson University, University of Maryland, or Tennessee State University.

Students shared their views on many issues associated with recreational marijuana use. Over the past ten years, the Prince George's County Drug Policy Coalition, Inc. has awarded over \$208,000.00 in scholarships to students, allowing them to continue their education in preparation for their future careers.

This year's award recipients participated in a host of community activities. They included: tutoring elementary students in math and science, working on mental health research projects, and collecting food for their community. Other students pursued their aviation license, or stayed active in national groups such as the National Association of Eagle Scouts Association.

Past speakers have included: Ms. Jacqueline Griffin, motivational speaker and mother of NFL Quarterback RG. III, Former States Attorney Glenn Ivey, Former U.S. Marshal, Matthew Fogg, Dr. Mickey Burnim, Former President of Bowie State University, Ronald Blakely, Former Associate Director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), and Dr. Ivory Toldson, Former Executive Director of the White House Initiative on HBCUs. Mrs. Ebony N. McMorris currently White House Correspondent at Urban Radio Networks often served as the Coalition's Mistress of Ceremonies for their scholarship breakfast awards programs.

*Dr. Valencia Campbell, President of the PGCDPC said, "We are delighted to continue to support these outstanding students. We appreciate the invaluable support of our donors who have helped our students excel in their chosen fields of study".*

About: The Prince George's County Drug Policy Coalition, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that promotes policies and laws that embrace the public health nature of drug abuse. Through our scholarship program, we provide community-based support to families within the county with a focus on students obtaining higher education and living a drug free life. Through the support of interested organizational partners, and grassroots members like you, we hope to prevent and reduce illegal drug abuse and related crimes in Prince George's County. For more information about upcoming events and how to partner with us, please visit our website at <https://www.pgcdpc.com>.

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