

For Immediate Release
Media Contact: Lisa Desatnik, 513-984-5474

YMCA Teen Achievers Earn Scholarships To Morehead State University

April, 2010 -- Two students, Cierra Sanders and Zhanna McDole, in the YMCA Teen Achievers Program have been awarded full scholarships to Morehead State University for the upcoming school year.

"We are so proud of Cierra and Zhanna. They have worked so hard in school and in the community. We have seen them grow in many positive ways through their involvement in our program and we know they'll be equally successful in college and beyond," said Darlene Murphy, YMCA Teen Achievers program director.

Cierra is a recent graduate of Butler Technical High School majoring in criminal justice. She was a member of the National Technical Honor Society, president of her student government, and sergeant and treasurer of her class. Cierra has been an honor roll student all four years of high school and worked tirelessly to continue this outstanding achievement. It has always been her dream to become a lawyer.

Zhanna is a recent graduate of Northmont High School in Clayton, Ohio. She has been involved in a variety of activities that have a positive impact on others. Among them were participating in her school's Diversity Club to promote peace and camaraderie among different cultures, Link Crew to help peers feel welcome, Jobs for Graduates class that included community service projects; and being a peer tutor to students with a disability. She was also on her school's yearbook staff, having served as co-editor; participated in the Spanish Club; and was nominated as a student ambassador for People to People.

One of the largest regional programs of its kind, the YMCA Black & Latino Achievers Program motivates young students of color to further their education and goals with help from successful, professional role models. Last year through the Program, eight graduating seniors earned \$424,292 in full tuition, book and other scholarships given by the YMCA secondary education institutions and other organizations. Since its beginning, the YMCA Black & Latino Achievers has served over 5,000 teens, awarded over \$175,000 in scholarships, assisted youth with over \$3 million dollars in awarded scholarships and engaged more than 4,000 adult volunteers through a network of corporate and community partners.

The Program is part of a national initiative that incorporates mentoring, career exploration and college readiness; and helps teens of color to develop a positive sense of self, build character, and explore diverse college and career options. Local businesses and organizations sponsor civic minded professionals as YMCA Black & Latino Achievers who demonstrate their commitment to giving back by volunteering with the program. Nominations are currently being accepted for 2010 to 2011 YMCA Adult Achievers. To learn more, the public can visit www.myy.org.

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Northmont High School Graduate Received Full Scholarship From Morehead

Zhanna McDole, a participant in the YMCA Teen Achievers Program, was awarded a full scholarship to Morehead State University for the upcoming school year.

“We are so proud of Zhanna. She worked so hard in school and in the community. We have seen her grow in many positive ways through her involvement in our program and we know she’ll be equally successful in college and beyond,” said Darlene Murphy, YMCA Teen Achievers program director.

Zhanna is a recent graduate of Northmont High School in Clayton, Ohio. She has been involved in a variety of activities that have a positive impact on others. Among them were participating in her school’s Diversity Club to promote peace and camaraderie among different cultures, Link Crew to help peers feel welcome, Jobs for Graduates class that included community service projects; and being a peer tutor to students with a disability. She was also on her school’s yearbook staff, having served as co-editor; participated in the Spanish Club; and was nominated as a student ambassador for People to People.

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Pleasant Run Farms Student Earns College Scholarship

Pleasant Run Farms resident Cierra Sanders, a participant in the YMCA Teen Achievers Program, was awarded a full scholarship to Morehead State University for the upcoming school year.

"We are so proud of Cierra. She worked so hard in school and in the community. We have seen her grow in many positive ways through her involvement in our program and we know she'll be equally successful in college and beyond," said Darlene Murphy, YMCA Teen Achievers program director.

Cierra is a recent graduate of Butler Technical High School majoring in criminal justice. She was a member of the National Technical Honor Society, president of her student government, and sergeant and treasurer of her class. Cierra has been an honor roll student all four years of high school and worked tirelessly to continue this outstanding achievement. It has always been her dream to become a lawyer.

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