



PRESS RELEASE

COLLEGEBOUND FOUNDATION RECOGNIZES THE 2009 BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR

Fall 2009

Each year the CollegeBound Foundation recognizes a High School Principal and a School Guidance Counselor who have distinguished themselves as advocates for students who aspire to pursue a college education. These two professionals have also proven to be extraordinary partners who have worked hand-in-hand with CollegeBound to ensure that access to college is an opportunity for every student at their schools.

This award is made possible as a result of an anonymous donor who is a lifelong Baltimore resident and believes that our children are our community's greatest asset.

Ms. Susanne Gray-Rice
Western High School
2009 School Counselor of the Year

When you first meet our Counselor of the Year, it's obvious school counseling is her passion and it's clear she makes every effort to make a difference in her students' lives every day. She is the school counselor you wished you had when you were growing up. She is dynamic, passionate, spirited and caring. She is like her own solar system, wrapping everyone in her enthusiasm and caring. You understand why her students can't be helped but to be pulled under her positive influence. As an alumna of the school she serves, Susanne relishes her responsibility as a role model when visiting middle schools to recruit new talent. "She shares great stories of what it was like when she attended the high school with such enthusiasm, most incoming 9th graders already feel as though they have a connection to the campus before their first day of school" says one of her fellow counselors. "She is truly a pied piper of students".

Dr. Starletta Jackson
Vivien T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy
2009 Principal of the Year

Dr. Jackson epitomizes how a high school principal should lead the college access charge in our challenging urban environment. She instituted and supports College Week to emphasize the importance of higher education featuring guest speakers, college dress days, a college fair, and other activities designed to expose students to a range of college options. She has forged partnerships with local universities, local hospitals, and allied health organizations to provide professional development experiences for staff, as well internship opportunities and summer jobs for students. Dr. Jackson has also arranged for her school to be open on Saturdays - year round - to provide students with additional tutoring, academic support, test preparation and mentoring from teachers, peer and volunteers. She understands that one person alone does not create the college climate.

CONTACT

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