



**\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\***

**CollegeBound Foundation selects its 2022 Scholar of the Year and Distinguished Alum**

***CollegeBound will recognize Baltimore City Schools' graduates headed to college, recent college graduates, and alumni at 34<sup>th</sup> annual Scholars' Luncheon on Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at the Baltimore Museum of Art.***

**Baltimore, Md.** – The CollegeBound Foundation will celebrate its 34<sup>th</sup> annual CollegeBound Scholars' Luncheon on Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at the Baltimore Museum of Art. Each year at the CollegeBound Scholars' Luncheon, Baltimore area leaders in education, business and government gather to honor recent Baltimore City public high school graduates, current college students, and recent college graduates. The event will be very scholar- and alumni- focused, highlighting the achievements of Baltimore City public schools graduates over the last 34 years.

**2022 Scholar of the Year – Ashley Estrada-Herrarte, Western High School**

The CollegeBound Foundation has chosen one high achieving student for its Scholar of the Year award which will be formally presented during CollegeBound's Scholars' Luncheon. This year's recipient is Western High School's Ashley Estrada-Herrarte.

Each CollegeBound-staffed high school nominates a student for its Scholar of the Week designation. One of the Scholar of the Week applicants is then picked as the CollegeBound Scholar of the Year. Ms. Estrada-Herrarte received the 2022 award in recognition of her outstanding academic accomplishments, leadership, and community service.

The winning Scholar of the Week from each participating high school is featured in a 30-second commercial that is aired on Fox45 in the spring for a one-week period. The Scholar of the Year receives a \$1,000 renewable scholarship. This year's Scholar of the Week series is sponsored by Rosedale Federal Savings & Loan Association.

**2022 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient – Blessing Dawson**

Blessing Dawson, MSW, LICSW, Clinical Director for Family Preservation Services, Inc. and independent psychotherapist, has been selected as the 2022 CollegeBound Distinguished Alumni Award recipient. Mrs. Dawson is a graduate of Digital Harbor High School with degrees from the University of Maryland, College Park and Howard University. Mrs. Dawson has dedicated her professional career to vulnerable populations, particularly youth and adults experiencing and overcoming trauma. Outside of work, Mrs. Dawson is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and her church community. Mrs. Dawson will be recognized as the award recipient and serve as this year's alumni speaker at CollegeBound's upcoming Scholars' Luncheon.

**WHAT:** CollegeBound 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholars' Luncheon

**WHEN:** July 14, 2022 at 11 am

**WHERE:** Baltimore Museum of Art, 10 Art Museum Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218

**MEDIA:** The luncheon is Open Press: ***Media interested in attending -- please contact Cassie Motz, at [cmotz@collegeboundfoundation.org](mailto:cmotz@collegeboundfoundation.org) or 202-494-5469, by July 13<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm***