

Carson Scholars Fund **n**ews

IMPORTANT DATES

July 6, 2016

Scholarship Payout Forms Due

July 18, 2016

Payout Checks Mailed to
Colleges/Universities

October 2016

Online Application Available

Upcoming Openings Sponsored by Domtar and their vendors:

Clio Elementary School
Bennettsville, SC

Old Pointe Elementary School
Rock Hill, SC

Abraham Lincoln Elementary
School
Kingsport, TN

Lake Park Elementary School
Addison, IL

Foust Elementary School
Owensboro, KY

Haywood Elementary School
Brownsville, TN

John Q. Adams Elementary
School
Dallas, TX

Mallard Creek Elementary School
Charlotte, NC

Upcoming Openings Sponsored by Thompson:

R.E. Davis Elementary School
Sumter, SC



SPECIAL EDITION:

Celebrating our 20th Anniversary

Celebrating Awards Milestone!

Each year, the Carson Scholars Fund holds regional awards banquets throughout the country to honor our Carson Scholars. This year, the Carson Scholars Fund celebrated its 20th anniversary of recognizing and rewarding promising students. It has been a truly successful 20 years. It marks an important milestone for the organization as we look back at our incredible heritage of accomplishments. At eight regional awards banquets, scholars were honored for their academic achievement and humanitarian qualities that made them stand out from their peers.....[Read more.](#)

Fall 2016 Payouts

If you are a payout-eligible scholar you have been mailed (and emailed) your scholarship statement and fall 2016 payout request form. Please keep in mind our payout policy when completing your payout form.....[Read more.](#)

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Family Summer Reading Packages

Summer travel is in full swing. As you pack your bags to head to the beach, or to the mountains, be sure to include a few good books. Summer reading is critical for students to prevent the dreaded "summer slide." Summer slide happens when children lose or forget some of the skills they obtained during the school year.....[Read more.](#)

First-Ever Hall of Fame

At the start of our 20th anniversary season, we introduced the first-ever Carson Scholars Fund Hall of Fame, a year-long celebration of individuals whose lives and careers are an integral part of the Fund's history. The mission of the Hall of Fame is to honor outstanding Carson Scholar Alumni who are representative of CSF's mission.....[Read more.](#)



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It has been a truly successful 20 years. This anniversary marks an important milestone for the organization as we look back at our incredible heritage of accomplishments. At eight regional awards banquets, scholars were honored for their academic achievement and humanitarian qualities that made them stand out from their peers. In our twentieth season, the Carson Scholars Fund was proud to recognize 626 new and 841 previous scholars from across the country.

Not only did we celebrate the impressive accomplishments of our scholars at our banquets, we also recognized the work of distinguished honorees for their contributions to their communities. Most importantly, thank you to all of our wonderful **donors and supporters**; without you, this would not be possible!



The banquet season kicked off Sunday, April 10, 2016 at the Hippodrome Theatre in Baltimore, MD. The 20th Annual Maryland Awards Ceremony was hosted by legendary newscaster, Sam Donaldson. As Master of Ceremonies, Sam Donaldson welcomed and congratulated the 228 new and 334 previous Maryland Carson Scholars. [View the 20th Anniversary Recap here](#), [view the awards ceremony photos here](#) and [view the recap video here](#).



The 20th Annual Maryland Awards Ceremony included recognition of the year's honorees and special guests:

- **Kimmie Meissner**, *World Champion and Olympic Figure Skater*, was awarded with the Spirit of Achievement Award for striving to attain success in all aspects of life for the purpose of improving society. During the 2006 season, Kimmie won a silver medal at the U.S. Championships to qualify for the 2006 Olympics in Torino. Three weeks later she competed at Calgary, where she won the title. She was the winner of SKATING magazine's Readers' Choice Award for 2006 Skater of the Year (Michelle Kwan Trophy).
- **Lisa Thomas, M.D.**, *Carson Scholar Alumni*, spoke at the event about the true meaning of being a Carson Scholar. She stressed the importance of hard work and overcoming obstacles to achieve her dreams. Growing up and still today, she believes in the cliché that "if you can do it, I can do it too." Lisa's commitment to the sciences earned her a position working as an Attending Emergency Physician at the University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Medical Center.
- **Jason Yoder**, *Carson Scholar Alumni*, wowed the crowd as he performed a beautiful number on the marimba. Jason is a percussionist living in Philadelphia. He is currently pursuing a M.M. in percussion performance at Temple's Boyer College of Music. He has spent summers at the Interlochen Arts Academy, Brevard Music Center, Juilliard Percussion Seminar and the Aspen Music Festival and School. This year, Jason will be returning to the Aspen Music Festival and School as the Charles Owen Fellowship recipient.
- **Aliyah Yvonne Caldwell**, *Carson Scholar Alumni*, and **Sara Hawley**, *2-time Carson Scholar*, performed a moving dance tribute to the theme from "The Carsons." Aliyah has studied with Norma Pera at The Baltimore School for the Arts, Arthur Mitchell at the Dance Theatre of Harlem (New York), Linda Denise Fisher-Harrell at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (New York), Alonzo King at Lines Ballet (San Francisco), Stephon Mills at Ballet Austin (Texas) and Christian Von Howard at Virginia Commonwealth University.



The first-ever **Greensboro** Awards Banquet was held on Wednesday, April 13th to honor scholars from the Piedmont Triad area. The inaugural event honored 29 new and 11 recognized scholars from the region in the company of their families, educators and community leaders. "This is Greensboro" host, Rosemary Plybon, emceed the ceremony with grace. New 2016 Carson scholar, Jisoo Kim, captivated the room while reading her essay chronicling her inspiring life story. CSF Hall of Fame Inductee, Sreya Atluri, delivered impassioned remarks

to the new scholars encouraging them to follow their dreams. Dr. Ben Carson's video message challenging scholars to aim high resonated with the high-achieving audience. Renowned speaker and author, Dr. Gary Chapman, delivered the keynote address sharing practical advice on relationships and respectful communications. At last, 2016 Carson Scholars were called to the stage to receive their medals and certificates from Dr. Craven Williams and Guilford County Board of Education Member, Mr. Ed Price. [View photos from the Greensboro Banquet here.](#)



The next weekend, on Sunday, April 17th, **Pittsburgh** hosted its 12th Annual Carson Scholars Awards Banquet. At Heinz Field overlooking the city, families, educators and guests joined to celebrate the 2016 Carson Scholars from the Pittsburgh/Ohio area. The 89 new and 192 previous Carson Scholars were recognized and rewarded for their outstanding academic achievements and humanitarian efforts. Brittny McGraw, WPXI-TV's weekend anchor and weekday news reporter, emceed the event. In addition to Brittny's kind words, Fran Donahue, Pittsburgh Chapter President and Nicholas Evan Good, Carson Scholar alumnus shared encouraging messages to the scholars. The Power of Excellence Award was presented to Lauryn Williams, 4-time U.S. Olympian and Founder/President of Worth Winning. The Power of Excellence Award is given to an individual for demonstrating excellence in his or her career and becoming a positive role model. Lauryn sent an inspiring message to the scholars about determination, hard work and the importance of education. Lauryn is the first American woman to have won a medal in both the Summer and Winter Olympic games. [View photos from the Pittsburgh Banquet here.](#)



An adorned Battle Creek Central High School Gymnasium was the presentation venue for the 14th Annual **Battle Creek** Awards Reception held on Friday, April 29th. Approximately 400 guests attended the event to spotlight the best and brightest in Battle Creek. The dynamic Terry Bureson once again enthusiastically emceed the evening. Program Officer of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Diane Smith, delivered thoughtful remarks about the importance of celebrating academic achievement in the company of family and friends. Jody Gibson, Vice President of Social Responsibility for the Kellogg Company, shared personal reflections of the motivating educators in her life. Amy Warner,

Executive Director of the CSF, highlighted the program's milestones and Battle Creek's 14 year track record of honoring high academic achievers. Dr. Ben Carson inspired scholars to reach for the stars via a recorded message. The Battle Creek Central Jazz Band added excitement to the already upbeat atmosphere with several numbers including the contagious "Up Town Funk." BCPS Superintendent, Kim Parker-Devauld, introduced CSF Alumni superstar, Madeline Stagner, who captivated the audience as she shared her experiences and successes as a Carson Scholar. Tyshaan Williams, a 7th grade scholar, shared heartfelt words and Samuel Wright, a 10th grade scholar, delivered his hilarious and touching essay. The evening culminated with the presentation of the scholarship certificates and medals being awarded to the 33 new and 12 previous scholars. At the end, Battle Creek Carson Scholars sported sunglasses because "their futures are so bright!" [View photos from the Battle Creek Banquet here.](#)





The following week, two more banquets occurred! The Chattanooga/Atlanta and West Coast Banquets were held on Sunday, April 24th to honor the amazing achievements of students in the Southeast and on the West Coast. The annual **Chattanooga/Atlanta** Awards Banquet was held at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Scholars traveled from Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee to receive recognition at the ceremony. John Mercer of WDEF News 12 Now served as the emcee for the event. Hamilton County, Tennessee Judge, Robert Philyaw, welcomed scholars, families and special guests. Mr. Cordell Carter II, CEO of TechTown Foundation

and an operator of Technology and Arts Education Centers, was honored with the Trailblazer Award for being an individual with a pioneering spirit who has positively impacted society with his innovative ideas. He is dedicated to inspiring young students through technology, training in 21st century skills and career awareness. Six-time Carson Scholar, Bethany Burns, a senior from Signal Mountain Middle-High School, provided a scholar reflection to describe the impact that being a Carson Scholar has had on her life. CSF Co-founder, Mrs. Candy Carson, encouraged scholars to be the best they can be. Candy Carson and Judge Philyaw presented the 68 scholars in attendance with certificates and medals on stage. [View photos from the Chattanooga/Atlanta Banquet here.](#)

That same day, 252 guests joined in recognizing and rewarding the 2016 Carson Scholars at the **West Coast** Awards Banquet. The 64 new and 50 previous Carson Scholars were celebrated at the beautiful Montezuma Hall Aztec Student Union at San Diego State University. Dan Cohen, 3-time Emmy Award Winning Anchor from CBS News 8, emceed the event. Channing Lee, 2-time Carson Scholar, dazzled on the piano, while Carson Scholar Alumni, Chasen Wilson, encouraged scholars to reach for academic success and push themselves to achieve their goals. In addition, Ezekiel Zaruba, 3-time Carson Scholar, provided an enthusiastic introduction to Dr. Ben Carson. Dr. Carson provided the keynote address for the day, in which he spoke about the importance of education, learning and overcoming obstacles. [View photos from the West Coast Banquet here](#) and [view a short banquet video here.](#)



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On Sunday, May 1st, 69 new and 57 previous Carson Scholars were honored at the **Chicago** Banquet at the Oak Lawn Hilton. These exceptional students from Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin all joined together for the Fifth Annual Chicago Awards Ceremony. For her fourth year, Dr. Sandy Goldberg, NBC Health and Nutrition Consultant and WGN-TV Contributor, returned to emcee the ceremony. Camden Hensley (all the way from Oklahoma!) delivered the pledge followed by a warm welcome from CSF Co-founder Mrs. Candy Carson, who expressed her sincere thanks to everyone who attended and challenged the scholars to keep thinking big. Ken Lukhard, President of Advocate Christ Medical Center expressed his encouragement to the young scholars of Chicago who might one day work in

medicine. He was followed by a heartfelt reflection from Carson Scholar Alumni, Eric Deasy and 2016 scholar Samir Al-Ali did an impressive job of introducing Dr. Ben Carson for his always-inspiring keynote address. Dr. Carson challenged scholars to actively seek thoughtful solutions to problems they encounter personally or in their communities. Matt Matros was awarded the Trailblazer Award for demonstrating a pioneering spirit and positively impacting society with innovative ideas. He is the founder of Protein Bar, an on-the-go restaurant offering healthy, high-protein foods, with 20 locations throughout Chicago, Washington, D.C. and Colorado. He is also a Board Advisor of FarmedHere, the nation's longest-running indoor vertical farm. [View photos from the Chicago Banquet here.](#)

The 2016 banquet season concluded with the **Florida Awards Banquet**, held on Saturday, May 7th at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point in Bonita Springs, FL. With a sunny and warm day, Brian Colleran, Weekend Morning Anchor and Reporter at NBC2, returned as emcee. Along with her warm welcome, Candy Carson noted the accomplishments of the 67 new and 126 previous scholars from across the state of Florida! A moving violin performance was provided by Claire Schreiber, a 4-time Carson Scholar, who is an 8th grade student at Diplomat Middle School. Johnny Sheppard, Esq. gave the invocation and Bill Frey, Ph.D. provided remarks to the audience. Dr. Ben Carson captured the attention of the scholars and families with his keynote address and stories from his life as a young man. The Sonya Award was presented to Dr. Wilson G. Bradshaw, President of Florida Gulf Coast University. The Sonya Award is given to an individual who demonstrates the drive, determination, commitment and perseverance of Dr. Carson's mother, Sonya. The evening closed by taking the classic group photo outside, but this year they spiced it up with sunglasses because their "futures are so bright!" [View photos from the Florida Banquet here.](#)



We are thrilled to be sharing our 20th anniversary year with you and are eternally grateful for the commitment to education that our distinguished guests, educators, community leaders, scholars and families have made and are making throughout this year. The 2016 Awards Banquets were ones we will forever cherish and remember. We are excited to continue achieving our mission for many more years to come! We encourage you to check out our [Chapters page](#) on our website for more information on our area scholars. Photos from each banquet can be found on our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

Here's a look at what our scholars, parents and educators had to say...

"Being named a Carson Scholar this year really motivated me to continue in my pursuit of both academic and humanitarian excellence. It was very rewarding to see that the impact and magnitude of my service contributions are recognized."
 – Carli Needle, Carson Scholar

"Our student is such a warm, kind person who already had a strong positive effect on our student body. When he was named a Carson Scholar, it was a reinforcement to all of us who admire and respect him, especially his parents. It was so great to celebrate goodness and to have it recognized on a national platform."
 – Educator Debbie Bedford

"Since becoming a Carson Scholar, I think he's become much more outgoing, proud of his accomplishments, and more willing to help others and to strive for even higher goals in both his academic and social life."
 – Parent of Richard Garriques, III

"Unimaginable pride to have my son chosen as a scholar and now Top 20 Under 30 Hall of Fame recipient. The Carson scholarship was the very first award and recognition Jeremy ever received. It gave him the confidence to apply to others. He has since earned nineteen other scholarships!"
 – Parent of Jeremy Garriga

Scholar Checklist



Important Scholar Information:



As the 2016 scholarship season comes to a close and as we are preparing for scholarship payouts, we have been sending you (and your school) a lot of information. Please make sure that you have received all of the following if applicable to you. If you are missing something or if you have any questions about the information, please contact us at 410.828.1005 or email katie@carsonscholars.org.

- All scholar packets have been mailed if you were unable to attend the banquet. Scholar packs include your certificate and medal (new scholars) or pin (previous scholars).
- All scholars were emailed their 2016 scholarship statement. Scholarship statements are only available online – you will not be receiving a statement in the mail. Please make sure that we have an accurate email address on file for you.
- All scholars eligible for the fall 2016 semester payout should have received a payout request form with their scholar statement. This information was mailed and emailed.
- Schools have been mailed their trophy and/or nameplates.
- Scholars who have not graduated yet will be sent a survey in the next few weeks. This survey is conducted by an independent research firm, FERA, and will be used to measure the impact of our program.

It is extremely important that we maintain accurate contact information for our scholars. If you have moved, changed email addresses, or got a new phone number, please let us know! This is especially important when it comes time for scholarship payouts.

Fall 2016 Payouts

If you are a payout-eligible scholar you have been mailed (and emailed) your scholarship statement and Fall 2016 Payout Request Form. Please keep in mind our payout policy when completing your payout form.

Scholarship monies are paid directly to the college or university and can only be made after verifying that the scholar is a full-time accepted and enrolled student at an accredited institution within the United States for the upcoming semester. Students must be enrolled in a bachelor's-degree-track (four-year) program. Scholarship monies can be used towards academic expenses including tuition, room and board, or books.



You have the option to request a full scholarship payout, partial payout, or defer your scholarship payout. We usually receive partial payout requests when students decide to use their scholarship money towards books. You can also defer your scholarship payout for up to three years after graduating high school. If you are attending a community college for two years and then transferring to a four year college or university, you can defer your scholarship payout. We will continue to send you information as to how to request a payout each semester you are eligible, or until your full scholarship balance has been paid out.

The Payout Request Form must be completed and submitted back to the CSF office by July 6, 2016. Checks will be mailed to colleges on July 18, 2016 in time for the fall semester. *Any Payout Request Forms received after July 6, 2016 will be held for payout in the spring 2017 semester.*

You can download a copy of the [Fall 2016 Payout Request Form here](#).

Also this year, you can complete your payout request form online. All eligible scholars should have received an email with a link to the payout request form, your username and password.

If any of your contact information (mailing address, email address, or phone number) has changed since we last heard from you, please get in touch! We can only send Payout Request Forms to contact information that we have. To update your information, call 410.828.1005, or send an email to katie@carsonscholars.org.

Expansion of the Reading Room Program

Thanks to our many friends and supporters, the Ben Carson Reading Project has experienced rapid growth. Over the past three months, 13 Ben Carson Reading Rooms have opened bringing the number of reading rooms established to 151. With the addition of reading rooms in Arkansas and North Carolina, the CSF is proud to be serving students in 19 states and Washington, D.C. The CSF welcomes the following reading room schools to the Ben Carson Reading Room family.

[View our reading rooms on the CSF website here.](#)



- **April 12:** Fifth District Elementary School – Upperco, MD
Room sponsor: *The Votta Family*
- **April 13:** Union Hill Elementary School – High Point, NC
Room sponsor: *A Friend of the High Point Community Foundation*
- **April 22:** L.F. Henderson Intermediate School – Ashdown, AR
Room sponsor: *Domtar and their vendors*
- **April 22:** Belle Glade Elementary School – Belle Glade, FL
Room sponsor: *Palm Beach County Chapter of the CSF*
- **April 25:** Bonsall West Elementary School – Oceanside, CA
Room sponsor: *John Henry Kendall*
- **May 2:** Jacqueline B. Kennedy Elementary School – Burbank, IL
Room sponsor: *Advocate Christ Medical Center*
- **May 2:** Rosa G. Maddock Elementary School – Burbank, IL
Room sponsor: *Advocate Christ Medical Center*
- **May 12:** Beaver Falls Middle School – Beaver Falls, PA
Room sponsor: *Beaver Falls Community & Saxer Family Foundation*
- **May 19:** Creswell Elementary School – Creswell, NC
Room sponsor: *Domtar and their vendors*
- **May 24:** Indian Pines Elementary School – Lake Worth, FL
Room sponsor: *Palm Beach County Chapter of the CSF*
- **May 31:** Coral Sunset Elementary School – Boca Raton, FL
Room sponsor: *Dr. and Mrs. Donald Janower*
- **June 2:** George W. Julian Elementary School 57 – Indianapolis, IN
Room sponsor: *The Magnant Family in honor of Pete and Jean Magnant*
- **June 8:** Bushy Park Elementary School – Glenwood, MD
Room sponsor: *Kahlert Foundation*



Family Summer Reading Packages

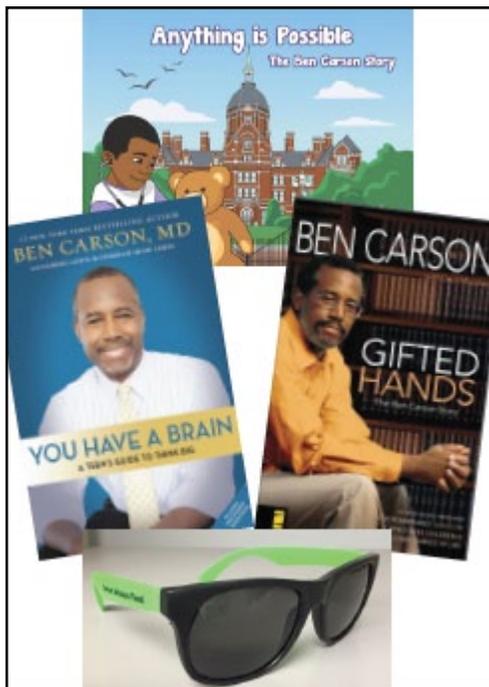


Summer travel is in full swing. As you pack your bags to head to the beach, or to the mountains, be sure to include a few good books. Summer reading is critical for students to prevent the dreaded “summer slide.” Summer slide happens when children lose or forget some of the skills they obtained during the school year. The good news is - summer slide can be prevented by reading a minimum of six books over the summer.

If you’re looking for book ideas we suggest *Anything Is Possible: The Ben Carson Story*. Written for young readers, ages pre-kindergarten to third grade, this picture book is the inspiring story of Dr. Ben Carson who, as a child, goes from “worst to first” when he discovers a love of reading. Middle and high school students might be interested in reading *You Have a Brain: A Teen’s Guide to Think Big*. In this book, Dr. Carson explains the eight important parts of “Thinking Big” – Talent, Honesty, Insight, Niceness, Knowledge, Books, In-Depth learning and God, and presents stories of people who have demonstrated these characteristics in his or her life. In addition, teenagers and adults may enjoy Dr. Carson’s autobiography *Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story*. Special book packages are now available on the [CSF website here](#) or see below for the individual package options. Wherever your travels may take you this summer, be sure to bring along a good book.

In addition, be sure to check out the [Anything Is Possible experience here](#). This is a great interactive experience for you and your child!

Click each package below to see details!



Family Summer Reading Package - \$30



Family Summer Reading Package - \$20



Family Summer Reading Package - \$10

HALL OF FAME

At the start of our 20th anniversary season, we introduced the first ever Carson Scholars Fund Hall of Fame, a year-long celebration of individuals whose lives and careers are an integral part of the Fund's history. The mission of the Hall of Fame is to honor outstanding Carson Scholar Alumni who are representative of CSF's mission – those who have demonstrated success and excellence in the work force, who have excelled academically and who have made significant contributions in their communities. These innovative leaders have believed in the power of education throughout their careers. They embody the characteristics of the Carson Scholars Fund, are lifelong learners and will leave lasting impressions for years to come.



The 20 elite inductees were celebrated at our Maryland Awards Ceremony on April 10, 2016. The Hall of Fame recipients each received a commemorative ring with a black "obsidian-like" stone as an ongoing reminder of their pursuit of excellence and display of leadership. In addition, they were honored with a gold-gilded portrait. [View the Hall of Fame on the CSF website here.](#)

"I am a product of my environment, and most of the time we automatically think of the poor and desolate parts of a neighborhood. Yes, I absolutely did not grow up with wealth and significant privilege but I did grow up with faith in Christ and genuine drive to succeed in everything I set my mind to accomplish. This has been a revolving theme throughout my life, and is what has helped me achieve up to this point. Thus, being recognized in the Carson Scholars Hall of Fame means that I have honored that little 13 year old girl from many years ago, who was awarded so greatly mainly for her potential. To be recognized again, amongst such an elite group signifies that the little girl inside of me has blossomed into her fullness. I think that is the true award, knowing I have not let myself down and I will continue to move forward in life, as much as God will allow. It's been an honor to be considered for this award."

- Kathryn Woods

"As a Carson Hall of Fame inductee, I continue to grow as an individual, a leader, student, and contributor. Receiving this recognition affirms my beliefs that all the steps I have taken thus far, every person I have helped and impacted along the way, every project I have undertaken in helping a community are all leading towards success, not so much for myself, but for the betterment of society. We all have something to offer, seize the ones you master, and gift those to the world!"

- Jeremy Garriga

"To me, being in the Hall of Fame means more than I can put in words. It's an incredible honor to be recognized by Dr. and Mrs. Carson, the Carson Scholars Fund, and the vast network of supporters and friends. Knowing that so many people believe in my work is such an empowering feeling, and one that inspires and motivates me to continue giving back and making an impact. The other Scholars in the Hall of Fame have done amazing work, and it's such a privilege to be recognized with them. The feeling of knowing that so many accomplished and esteemed individuals, such as Dr. and Mrs. Carson, truly believe in you and what you're doing is an unforgettable feeling. Being a Carson Scholar and in the Hall of Fame is not only a honor, but also a driving force to make a difference and continue my work in the community. It's been a phenomenal journey with the Carson Scholars Fund since I was first recognized as a Carson Scholar in 2014, and I could not be more thankful for such a supportive, welcoming, and fantastic community of mentors, supporters, peers, and leaders."

- Sreya Atluri



Coming Full Circle



Lindsay (Dodd) Thompson

As the Carson Scholars Fund celebrates its 20th anniversary, we reflect on the relationships and the legacy that we have established across generations. Current scholars have the opportunity to network with alumni to gain insight into higher education and the professional world. Educators have the privilege of celebrating various students become Carson Scholars. Alumni, now professionals in their fields and parents to young children, are able to influence younger generations of Carson Scholars.

Lindsay (Dodd) Thompson became a Carson Scholar in 2005 as an 8th grade student at Centreville Middle School. As a self-motivated student, she was a born leader with a natural passion for learning. Lindsay went on to study Political Science at Washington College before earning a Master's degree in Public Policy from the University of Maryland. This year, Lindsay was celebrated as an inductee into the first ever Carson Scholars Hall of Fame. Of the over 2,000 people in attendance at the Maryland Awards Ceremony, one of those guests was Mrs. Andrea Schulte.

Andrea Schulte was an educator at Centreville Middle School and was Lindsay's cheerleading coach when she became a Carson Scholar as an eighth grader in 2005. She recalls Lindsay as a, "dedicated student" who was "actively involved in extracurricular activities." Over the years, as an educator, Andrea was involved in the Carson Scholars program. She once wrote a letter of recommendation for a student who was named a Carson Scholar and was invited to attend the banquet to celebrate the student's accomplishment. This year, Andrea was able to experience the Carson Scholars Program from a different perspective when her son, Caeden Schulte, a fifth grader at Matapeake Elementary School, was named a 2016 Carson Scholar. Caeden shares many of the same qualities that Lindsay did when she won – dedicated to his studies, self-motivated and involved in extracurricular activities.



Caeden Schulte

The impact of the Carson Scholars Program has come full circle. Different groups of students are being impacted by the program just as those students were twenty years ago when Dr. and Mrs. Carson started the Carson Scholars Fund. Teachers and coaches who once saw their students become Carson Scholars are now witnessing their own children receive the same recognition. We strive to continue building our legacy as new groups of students become Carson Scholars and Carson Scholar alumni each year.



Scholar Spotlight: Christopher Cao

Christopher, a 2016 Carson Scholar, is an 11th grade student at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, VA. Christopher's biggest talent is computer building and programming, so it comes as no surprise that he would like to be a project manager for a large technology firm when he gets older. Christopher is the founder and CEO of Reboot for Youth, an organization dedicated to refurbishing computers. In the Washington, D.C. area alone, Reboot for Youth has assisted over 300 children in more than 30 schools. The program has also provided over 350 computers in six countries, impacting a total of over 2,000 students. Aside from their radius of impact, the program received the Shelter House Community Champion Award, which was given to Reboot for Youth as an organization on June 22nd. In addition, last month, they were selected as the #LenovoSurprise winner. The Lenovo CEO, Yuanqing Yang, personally coordinated and provided Reboot for Youth with 75 brand-new, high-end computers.



Impressively, Christopher has received the following awards and recognition:

- **CNN "Young Wonder" Award (2016):** Recognition is given to a total of three teenagers each year out of a pool of 150+ nominations.
- **Nickelodeon's Halo Effect Champion (2016):** Chris was chosen as one of 10 teenagers in the world to film a full episode as part of Nickelodeon's Helping and Leading Others (HALO) Effect television series, showcasing notable community-service projects run by young philanthropists.
- **We Are Family Foundation's Three Dot Dash Global Team Leader (2016):** Chris was selected as one of 30 teen leaders in the world, with individuals representing 11 countries across four continents. He was invited to a week-long summit in New York City to develop Reboot for Youth with influential figures.
- **Northern Virginia Magazine's Northern Virginian of the Year (2015)**
- **Youth Service America's Everyday Young Hero Award (2015):** A group of young individuals creating substantial change in their own communities across the globe.



In addition, Christopher is one of three representatives on the Fairfax County Student Human Rights Commission (FCSHRC). As a member of FCSHRC, Christopher attends meetings to tackle some of the county's biggest issues including bullying, discrimination and minority rights. When Christopher is not busy running his organization, volunteering or studying at school, he enjoys playing golf, building mobile applications and longboarding.

Christopher's Carson Scholarship was sponsored by the Carson Scholars Fund.

Meet Our Interns!



Hannah Grice
2016 Summer Intern

High School You Graduated From: The Catholic High School of Baltimore

Year(s) Awarded the Carson Scholarship: 2012-2016

College/University You're Attending in the Fall: Stevenson University

Intended Major: Biology

Dream Job: Genetic Researcher, Teacher, Eating Disorder Recovery Advocate

Favorite Book: *The Best of Me* by Nicholas Sparks

Favorite Movie: *Safe Haven*

Favorite Food: Egg custard snowballs

Best Advice You've Ever Received: "You have to get better for the people you are going to help one day."

What piece of advice would you give to current scholars about embarking on the college search? Find a place that you feel at home – and going with your gut-instinct is very important.

What did you enjoy most about being a Carson Scholar? Meeting other individuals who shared my passion for the community and academic success.

How has your experience in high school and being a Carson Scholar prepared you for college? Being a Carson Scholar gave me a sense of confidence to go after what I believed in and to always be a passionate "go-getter."

Favorite quote that defines you: "A body is beautiful when it houses a beautiful soul."



Anne Saba
2016 Summer Intern

High School You Graduated From: Towson High School

Year(s) Awarded the Carson Scholarship: 2009, 2011-2016

College/University You're Attending in the Fall: UMBC

Intended Major: Mathematics with a minor in music

Dream Job: High School Math Teacher

Favorite Book: *Harry Potter* series

Favorite Movie: *Whiplash*

Favorite Food: Ribs

Best Advice You've Ever Received: Get involved

What piece of advice would you give to current scholars about embarking on the college search? Don't stress out about going to a college with a fancy name; pick a college that suits you best. At the end of the day, your college experience will be what you make it, no matter where you go.

What did you enjoy most about being a Carson Scholar? Being surrounded by other students who, in addition to being academically strong, are passionate about serving the community. It's always an inspiration to see so much potential at the banquets each year.

How has your experience in high school and being a Carson Scholar prepared you for college? The Carson Scholars Program has taught me that it's possible to do both the things I love and the things that help others, and that's what I plan to continue to do in college.

Favorite quote that defines you: "Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light." – Albus Dumbledore, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*