

# DC METRO chapter spotlight 2017



Martin's West | Baltimore, MD  
April 30, 2017



2017 New Scholars: **2**

2017 Recognized Scholars: **3**

Cumulative DC Metro Area Scholars: **111**

**Highlights:** Beginning with the introduction of the 2017 Carson Scholars by FOX45's Jennifer Gilbert, the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Maryland Awards Ceremony featured musical performances by 2017 Carson Scholar Lena Goldstein and 8-time Carson Scholar Michelle Bao. Steve Harvey was presented with the Generous Heart Award and kept the crowd laughing while imparting important lessons to the scholars. Members of the 2017 Hall of Fame class were honored and guests were surprised with a balloon drop and confetti cannons to close out the event.

**\$102,297.53\*** have been paid out to colleges on behalf of the scholars who won their awards in the Washington, DC metro area.

*\*\*As of fiscal year 2017*



Commitment in the DC Metro Area



**Lekabel Abul**

2017 Carson Scholar

McKinley Technology High School  
Washington, DC

Lekabel knows that through hard work and dedication, she will reach her goals and change the world for the better. An artist since she was six years old, Lekabel’s passion for drawing has led her to pursue a career in mechanical engineering, through which she will be able to draft many designs. She is currently working with WorldSmarts, a STEM club at her school, to determine more efficient ways to produce energy, like using solar powered charging stations throughout communities. Lekabel’s passion for science has won her several awards including three at the D.C. Science Fair. When she isn’t brainstorming new projects, Lekabel enjoys writing, running, reading and dancing.

As an avid member of his school’s Technology Student Association (TSA), it’s no surprise that Arjun aspires to be the CEO of an information technology company. Through TSA, he is able to work on projects spanning the entire STEM field and participate in regional and state competitions. His interest in STEM led him to volunteer for Project CodeT, a non-profit organization that strives to expose younger students to computerscienceandinterdisciplinaryfields. Arjunteachesyoungerstudents how to code in different languages and sets up computer labs for students who typically get only one hour of exposure to computer science during the school year. Arjun also plays basketball and enjoys dancing for Marathi Kala Mandal, a local cultural group that performs Bollywood and folk dances.



**Arjun Dhumne**

2017 Carson Scholar

Rachel Carson Middle School  
Herndon, VA



**Rakiya Washington**

2-time Carson Scholar

Benjamin Banneker Academic High School  
Washington, DC

Rakiya’s interests range from foreign languages and art to building electric cars. Through the Japanese Plus Program, she is learning to speak Japanese and about Japanese culture, then taking what she learns to perform skits and potentially travel to Japan. Rakiya also tutors reading for younger students and helps them with their homework. As part of the Electric Car Club, she aided in the construction of an electric car, specifically with configuring wire and overall design. She had the opportunity to drive in the Electric Car Grand Prix, and her team won an award for their website design. Rakiya likes to knit, crochet, write and draw in her spare time.

**“We are extremely grateful that such a program exists to give academic scholars the credit and recognition they so greatly deserve.”**

Tom and Jessica Rhodes, parents of 2017 Carson Scholar Brady Rhodes

**Impact of the Carson Scholars Fund, Inc.**