

# CHICAGO

## chapter spotlight

### 2018



Martin's West | Baltimore, MD  
April 22, 2018



2018 New Scholars: **16**

2018 Recognized Scholars: **39**

Cumulative Chicago & Midwest Scholars: **277 (201 Illinois)**

**Highlights:** Dr. Alveda King, an accomplished author, activist and politician and niece of the late Martin Luther King, Jr., was presented with the Sonya Award. 6-time Carson Scholar Allyson Sweiderk and 2-time Carson Scholar Gabriel Ramos wowed the crowd with a special musical performance of *The Impossible Dream*, arranged by Candy Carson. Dr. Oz, professor of surgery at Columbia University and 9-time Daytime Emmy Award winner, received the Trailblazer Award. Members of the 2018 CSF Hall of Fame were introduced and applauded.

**\$187,854.48\*\*** has been paid out to colleges on behalf of the scholars who won their awards in Chicago and the Midwest\*.

*\*\*As of fiscal year 2018*



Commitment in the Midwest



**Nikhit Bhamidipati**

2018 Carson Scholar  
Benjamin Elementary School  
Bloomington, IL

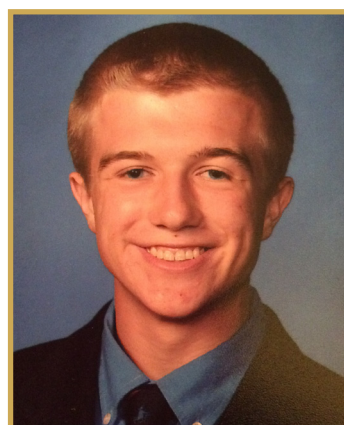
Nikhit is involved in a variety of activities inside and outside of school. At school, he is a member of the Chess Club, Student Council, School Choir, and Robotics Team. As a member of Student Council, Nikhit works with younger grades to raise money for the United Way. He organized a successful food drive for Sewa International, providing over forty bags of food to less fortunate families. Nikhit also volunteers with Ekal International, an organization that helps children in India receive a proper education. When he isn't helping those around him, Nikhit enjoys building with Legos and playing piano, bass, basketball, and tennis.

Jocelyn aspires to become an emergency room doctor after witnessing firsthand the lack of access to healthcare among many minorities in her town. She volunteers for a variety of local nonprofit organizations, including Su Casa Domestic Violence House, Chicago for the Coalition of the Homeless, and at the soup kitchen by serving Thanksgiving dinner. An experienced dancer, Jocelyn teaches free dance classes at her church to girls 4-20 years old. At school, she is a member of the soccer team and the National Honor Society and has received multiple awards including for perfect attendance and the Principal's Award.



**Jocelyn Hernandez**

2018 Carson Scholar  
Richard T. Crane Medical  
Prep High School  
Chicago, IL



**Payton Condon**

2-time Carson Scholar  
St. Rita's of Cascia High School  
Chicago, IL

Payton is a natural leader with a passion for helping those around him. At school, he is the president of the Big Brothers Club and a member of the National Honor Society, Model UN, Knights of Augustine, Advice Beyond the Classroom Program, and the baseball and chess teams. An active part of his church, Payton serves on the leadership council of his youth group and as a liturgical aid. During the holidays, he enjoys caroling with his youth group and Christmas shopping for families in need. One of Payton's proudest accomplishments was developing and running a local baseball camp to benefit the Greater Chicago Chapter of the ALS Association.

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

**-Parents of a Carson Scholar**

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