

# MARYLAND chapter spotlight 2020



**Virtual Banquet**  
May 9, 2020

**2020 New Scholars: 215**

**2020 Recognized Scholars: 438**

**Cumulative Mid-Atlantic Scholars: 4,354 (3,820 Maryland)**

*\*Does not include PA scholars invited to the Maryland Ceremony*

## **Highlights:**

On May 9, 2020, we celebrated our Carson Scholars with a Virtual Banquet. This year's superhero theme, which had been planned for the banquets, took on new meaning in light of the pandemic as we celebrated the intellectual skills and caring nature of our scholars. The banquet started with a beautiful welcome from Dr. and Mrs. Carson, congratulating the scholars on their resiliency, strong work ethic, and dedication to their communities. Kevin Olusola, Grammy award winning cellist, singer/songwriter and beatboxer of the vocal band, Pentatonix, received the Power of Excellence award. Dr. William Bennett, former Secretary of Education and national director of drug control policy, and Mrs. Elayne Bennett, founder and president of the Best Friends Foundation, were honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award. To conclude, all scholars' names and photos were displayed. Since we couldn't celebrate in person, scholars were encouraged to send in photos with their medals and certificates. Many families also posted photos on social media of how they turned the virtual banquet into a special celebration at home.



**Commitment in Maryland**



**Ava Richman**

2020 Carson Scholar  
Summit Park Elementary School  
Baltimore, MD

As a fifth grade student, Ava was a member of many school clubs including the environmental club, green art club, school safety patrol, and the yearbook club. She was also a member of her school’s Battle of the Books team and holds the honor of being on the 2019 winning team. Ava takes a violin group class at Peabody and is one of the youngest students selected to play in the Young Artist’s Orchestra at Peabody Preparatory Institute. To serve others, Ava organized a toy and shoe drive for an orphanage in India and sewed stuffed hearts to give to families with babies in the NICU. When she’s older Ava hopes to have a job that will help people in need.

Ethan seeks to make a difference in the lives of youth in his community through volunteering with the Boys and Girls Club and as a counselor and tutor at Shepherd Elementary School. Ethan is passionate about soccer and spends his spare time playing on two teams and working as a referee. He is a member of the Mu Alpha Theta Honor Society and challenges himself with an AP-heavy course load in school. In the future, Ethan is considering attending college to major in mathematics and minor in economics and then hopes to work at either the Federal Reserve or on Wall Street.



**Ethan Reece**

2020 Carson Scholar  
Benjamin Banneker  
Academic High School  
Washington, DC



**Hailey Miller**

2020 Carson Scholar  
Mount Hebron High School  
Ellicott City, MD

Haley keeps herself extremely busy both inside and outside of school! In school she served as the junior class vice president, SGA class representative, co-leader and executive board member of the Viking Service Club, and as her school’s representative to the Horizon Foundation. Outside of school she is the director of her church’s children’s worship team, and a volunteer with her church’s nursery and the Salvation Army. In her free time, Haley enjoys participating in activities and trips with her church. After graduation she hopes to attend a university to study, and eventually become, a nurse.

**“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*