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YOUTH IN NYC JUSTICE SYSTEM WIN NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS TO HELP PREPARE FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Six NYC Youth in the Juvenile Justice System Have Been Awarded Employment Matching Awards & Scholarship Funds Via the Performance-based Standards Learning Institute

NEW YORK, NY – NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) Commissioner David A. Hansell announced today that six New York City teens involved in the juvenile justice system have won national scholarships that will help them advance their education and career.

Through the Performance-based Standards Learning (PbS) Institute, up to \$1,000 in employment matching awards will be provided to five youth in the ACS Close to Home program, a juvenile justice initiative designed to keep youth in their communities and provide them with comprehensive support. The funds will match money the young people saved from working summer jobs over the last few months. A sixth youth has been awarded \$2,000 in scholarship funding to attend cosmetology school.

PbS is a data-driven improvement model that challenges juvenile justice agencies and programs to create safe and healthy environments that help improve the lives of vulnerable youth. This summer, PbS received 25 applications from nine facilities in four states representing a variety of employers and work environments. After holding a random drawing of all eligible applications, five young people from New York City's Close to Home program were selected for the employment matching award. The award matches up to one thousand dollars of what selected youth earn and save from their summer employment.

An additional Close to Home youth was awarded \$2,000 in scholarship money to attend cosmetology school at the Aveda Institute in Manhattan. The teen was one of just four applicants selected out of 62 candidates from across the country. She was chosen by a committee of PbS fund members based on a one-page essay describing how the scholarship would be used to further her education and "pay it forward." The scholarship will help her pursue her passion for hair and beauty, and her eventual goal of opening up her own salon.

"We are very proud of these six young people who are starting to build their careers, and we are grateful to the Performance -based Standards Learning Institute for helping young people pursue their dreams and goals," said **ACS Commissioner David Hansell**. "At ACS, we work hard to provide services and support that can help youth on the track to success, and the awards being provided by PbS reflect that."

“The PbS Employment Matching Award and Scholarship Fund are great examples of what the Close to Home model can achieve,” said **Deputy Commissioner Felipe Franco**. “This opportunity will help our young people make strong, positive connections in their communities and puts them in a better place to succeed after they’re released from our care.”

Close to Home is New York City’s residential juvenile justice program for at-risk youth. Young people receive therapeutic services at small group homes around the five boroughs where they are close to resources that can support their treatment and transition back into their communities. Under Close to Home, youth have an opportunity to work in a variety of entry-level jobs to gain job readiness skills, connect with adult mentors, and gain hands-on work experience.

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