

March 09, 2016

Santora Byrd  
34 Laurel Field Court  
Columbia, SC 29229

Nikki R. Haley  
Office of the Governor  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Honorable Nikki Haley,

Hello, my name is Santora Byrd. I am a 10th grade student at Spring Valley High School. I am currently involved in a program with the Columbia Urban League, known as, Project Ready. I am writing you concerning a sponsorship opportunity for me to attend a medical leadership forum. As you may know, I have been selected to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF) of Medicine this summer, 2016. The NYLF is a program geared towards preparing young students for the medical field of work. This program will help me gain real-world medical career experience and explore professional opportunities in the expanding fields of medicine and health care. This program will also allow me to use my personal and academic strengths and skills when participating in hands-on health care activities that are ran by the top medical training professionals. Since my goal is to become a future medical doctor, attending the NYLF Medicine will allow me the opportunity to gain firsthand medical experience. The cost of my trip is \$3,192 dollars. This cost includes 9 days of full scheduled classes, a personalized certificate of completion, housing accommodations, campus meals, course materials, and transportation to site visits. There are currently 8 cities I can choose from to attend this program. The 8 cities include; Atlanta, Boston, Washington D.C, Houston, Los Angeles, New York City, Raleigh-Durham, and San Francisco. If possible, I would like to attend the program in New York City, but if that does not work out, I will attend the program that is held in Atlanta, Georgia because transportation to and from the program sites are not included in the total cost. It will be a great honor to have you sponsor my trip to the NYLF: Medicine.

If my sponsorship is granted, I will be willing to publicly share my medical experience via public announcement such as radio or television to encourage other youth to participate in such a program.

Any financial donation amount will be greatly appreciated.

Attached, you will find detailed information pertaining to the NYLF: Medicine. A follow up letter will be mailed to you to ensure you received this information.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,

Santora Byrd,  
Student

803-873-0860 (My Cell)

803-736-1086 (Home)

803-569-9948 (Mother's Cell)

"Studies show that giving teens work experience is an investment for our future," said J.T. McLawhorn, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer of the Columbia Urban League, Inc.

For more than 15 years, SWELP has been providing employment opportunities to teens. Santora Byrd, a freshman at Spring Valley High School, shared her SWELP experience and how she looks forward to working with the program again this summer.

"My job last summer helped me with communications skills and learning how to work with others," said SWELP participant Santora Byrd. "I plan on working with the SWELP program as long as I can."

Applications will be available on the first week of May and can be picked up at the Columbia Urban League, Inc, City parks and the Columbia Police Department. All applications must be postmarked no later than May 31, 2015.

SWELP is an evidence-based career development program for youth ages 14-19. SWELP provides you with valuable work experience that helps foster responsibility, a strong work ethic and self-esteem. The purpose of this program is to provide primarily disadvantaged youth with summer work experience and service learning in an effort for them to gain the necessary fundamental skills they will need to ensure future employment opportunities.

For more information about SWELP, contact the Columbia Urban League at (803) 799-8150.

## Support Summer Employment!

*Your contribution can make a difference in the life of a child!*

Select your Summer Work Experience Leadership Program donation amount below:

☐ \$1.00    ☐ \$10.00  
☐ \$5.00    ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly donations will be added to the primary account holder's water bill

Signature for Authorization

The Columbia Urban League's Summer Work Experience Leadership Program (SWELP) is an evidence-based best-practice career development program for youth ages 14-19. SWELP provides youth valuable work experience that helps foster responsibility, a strong work ethic and self-esteem. The purpose of this program is to provide primarily disadvantaged youth with summer work experience and service learning in an effort for them to gain the necessary fundamental skills they will need to ensure future employment opportunities.



**Columbia Urban League, Inc.**

[www.columbiaurbanleague.org](http://www.columbiaurbanleague.org)



Santora Byrd, a freshman at Spring Valley High School, shared her SWELP experience.



L.R: J.T. McLawhorn, Mayor Steve Benjamin, Santora Byrd, and Senior Assistant City Manager Allison Baker.



**We Are Columbia**

# Press Release

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department  
(P) 803-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719  
pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Contact: Michael Wukela at 803-413-5052

### **Mayor Steve Benjamin Announced SWELP Fundraising Campaign**

Mayor Steve Benjamin announced the Summer Work Experience Leadership Program (SWELP) fundraising campaign today at City Hall.

"We're looking to increase SWELP jobs from 250 to 1000 this summer," said Mayor Benjamin. "We have to keep making deposits into the bank for our youth."

The campaign will start this week and citizens will be able to contribute by checking off the amount they wish to donate on an information insert that will be included with their water bill. Their donation will automatically be added to their monthly bill.

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**NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM:  
MEDICINE**

January 20, 2016

Miss Santora Byrd  
34 Laurel Field Court  
Columbia, SC 29229

Dear Santora:

Due to your demonstrated leadership ability, it is my great pleasure to inform you that you have been selected to attend the *National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF): Medicine* this summer, 2016.

Please accept my personal congratulations on this tremendous achievement.

You were selected through our academic partnership with George Mason University, **ranked not only as one of the 'Top Schools to Watch' by *U.S. News & World Report*, but also as one of the 'Top 100 Best Values' in higher education by *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* and *Forbes***. By attending *NYLF Medicine*, you can receive college credit through George Mason University!

As you may know, Rishishankar Suresh and Marilyn Lara from Spring Valley High School recently attended *NYLF Medicine* and were excellent additions to the program.

Several other students from Spring Valley High School have also previously attended an Envision leadership or career program. You may recognize one or more of these outstanding students, who are part of our distinguished alumni association, on the list enclosed.

At *NYLF Medicine*, you will visit a state-of-the-art medical simulation center where you will train like a professional and gain hands-on experience in a variety of medical procedures and technologies with guidance from experts. You will see a total knee replacement surgery broadcast and have a surgeon talk you through the procedure and answer your questions in real time.

The *NYLF Medicine* curriculum also features an emergency medical training simulation where you will explore ways to provide medical help when care is hours away. This special simulation was created in collaboration with the Department of Emergency Medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine by Dr. Henry Curtis, EMMOC Course Director and under the guidance of Dr. Paul Auerbach, a leading authority and author in this field.

*NYLF Medicine* also includes visits to a prominent medical school, where you will meet and speak directly with first year medical students to explore components of a typical first year medical school experience, to gain perspective on the culture of medical school, and to develop an awareness of the key success factors that are critical for first year medical students.

By taking part in the program, you will also learn all about the medical school application process, explore the many career options available, and specifically identify strategies, academic pathways, and career skills you need to be successful in the medical and allied health fields.

You will also discover and begin applying communication, conflict resolution, critical thinking, and decision-making skills that will help you become a strong, motivated leader both in school and in your future career.

1101 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 600 • Washington, DC 20004 • (866) 573-0961  
NYLFmed.com/Mason • Mason@envisionexperience.com • #NYLFMED

*Envision | Offering Leadership and Career Exploration Experiences since 1985 | More than 500,000 Program Alumni*

Miss Santora Byrd  
January 20, 2016  
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You will meet and interact with high-achieving students from all across the U.S. and develop friendships that will last long after the completion of the program. Upon your return home, you will be inspired and motivated to take the next step in your career journey.

If you choose to attend *NYLF Medicine* in either San Francisco, Boston, Washington, DC, or New York City, you have the option of extending your experience for four days by participating in the University and Cultural Extension. Included in the University and Cultural Extension is a visit to a local college campus, as well as city-specific cultural sights and activities.

Additionally, if you choose to attend the San Francisco *NYLF Medicine* session, you will have the exclusive option to enroll in a college preparatory workshop, Inside the University Admissions Process with Thomas Caleel, led by the former Director of MBA Admissions and Financial Aid for the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. During the workshop, which takes place before the session, you will hear from Admissions Officers from top schools, participate in a mock application process, and be guided on standardized testing preparation.

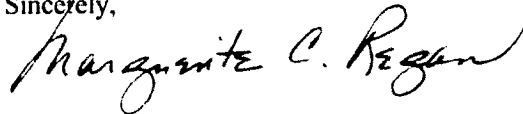
Enclosed is detailed information concerning your participation. Please read it carefully, and discuss it with your family.

The enrollment deadline is March 18, 2016, however, enrollments are accepted in the order they are received and individual session dates can fill to capacity at any time. I encourage you to secure space at *NYLF Medicine* by enrolling today.

The easiest and fastest way to enroll and confirm your space is directly through our website at [NYLFmed.com/Mason](http://NYLFmed.com/Mason). To enroll you will need your Student ID, which is:

Once again, Santora, congratulations! We look forward to seeing you this summer.

Sincerely,



Marguerite C. Regan, Ph.D.  
Dean of Academic Affairs

P.S. For your convenience, enroll directly online at [NYLFmed.com/Mason](http://NYLFmed.com/Mason) by the enrollment deadline of March 18, 2016. The program fills quickly; enroll today to ensure your space in the program.

If you have any questions, please contact our Office of Admissions at (866) 573-0961 or by email at [Mason@envisionexperience.com](mailto:Mason@envisionexperience.com).

#### **Educational Partner**

Envision is proud to announce a new powerful partnership that will continue to enhance the Envision *NYLF Medicine* experience with engaging high-quality digital content and curriculum. Our *NYLF Medicine* empowers, captivates, engages, and transforms the students of today into the innovators of tomorrow.



# NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM: MEDICINE

## 2016 Host Cities & Session Dates

**Emory University**  
**Atlanta**

June 19 – June 27

**Hofstra University**  
**New York**

July 16 – July 24

July 30 – August 7

**University of California, Berkeley**  
**San Francisco**

July 23 – July 31

**University of North Carolina**  
**Raleigh-Durham**

July 9 – July 17

July 23 – July 31

**Babson College**  
**Boston**

June 19 – June 27

July 2 – July 10

**University of Maryland**  
**Washington, DC**

June 19 – June 27

July 2 – July 10

**University of Houston**  
**Houston**

July 17 – July 25

**University of California, Los Angeles**  
**Los Angeles**

June 19 – June 27

July 3 – July 11

July 16 – July 24

Students are given the opportunity to choose session location, subject to availability.

## TUITION PAYMENT OPTIONS

*Prepared for Miss Santora Byrd*

**Step 1:** Visit [NYLFmed.com/Mason](http://NYLFmed.com/Mason) and click “Enroll.”

**Step 2:** Submit your student information to attend NYLF Medicine.

**Step 3:** Select your desired session dates and location.

**Step 4:** Select to pay the full tuition amount *or* select your convenient payment plan:

Payment Option	Enroll by March 18, 2016				
Full Tuition	\$3,195* charged at time of enrollment				
Payment Plan (includes a deposit plus 4 equal payments)	<b>Enrollment Date</b>	<b>1st Payment</b>	<b>2nd Payment</b>	<b>3rd Payment</b>	<b>4th Payment</b>
	<b>\$499** deposit</b>	<b>\$686.25</b>	<b>\$686.25</b>	<b>\$686.25</b>	<b>\$686.25</b>
	By January 31, 2016	March 1, 2016	April 1, 2016	May 1, 2016	June 1, 2016
Payment Plan (includes a deposit plus 3 equal payments)	<b>Enrollment Date</b>	<b>1st Payment</b>	<b>2nd Payment</b>	<b>3rd Payment</b>	
	<b>\$499** deposit</b>	<b>\$915.00</b>	<b>\$915.00</b>	<b>\$915.00</b>	
	February 1 - 15, 2016	March 15, 2016	April 15, 2016	May 15, 2016	
	February 16 - 29, 2016	April 1, 2016	May 1, 2016	June 1, 2016	
Payment Plan (includes a deposit plus 2 equal payments)	<b>Enrollment Date</b>	<b>1st Payment</b>	<b>2nd Payment</b>		
	<b>\$499** deposit</b>	<b>\$1,372.50</b>	<b>\$1,372.50</b>		
	March 1 - 15, 2016	April 15, 2016	May 15, 2016		
	March 16 - 18, 2016	May 1, 2016	June 1, 2016		

\*Tuition amount varies based on the dates and location you choose.

\*\*Upon enrollment you will be charged a \$450 deposit plus a \$49 one-time nonrefundable administrative fee, as well as any additional items you wish to purchase (excluding program extension). Remaining payment amounts will depend on your final balance.

**National Youth Leadership Forum: Medicine**  
1101 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20004  
Phone: (866) 573-0961  
[NYLFmed.com/Mason](http://NYLFmed.com/Mason)  
[Mason@envisionexperience.com](mailto:Mason@envisionexperience.com)  
#NYLFMED

## NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM: MEDICINE

### *Unique and Exclusive Benefits and Details*

The National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF): Medicine, an Envision program, has been recognizing and mentoring the nation's most motivated students for over 20 years. **An overwhelming 90% of Envision alumni report being happy with their career choices!\***

NYLF Medicine is held in U.S. cities chosen for their acclaimed medical institutions and schools, **allowing for students to visit prominent, state-of-the-art training simulation centers.**

Students who complete NYLF Medicine and meet program requirements are eligible to apply for **two college credits through George Mason University.**

**Some of the most well-regarded and prominent leaders, educators, and physicians in the medical community** provide support to and directly participate in NYLF Medicine, speaking to student groups and designing exciting curriculum modules such as the emergency medicine simulation, *When Care is Hours Away*.

Students who attend NYLF Medicine get firsthand experience with medical procedures through observation, simulation, and hands-on training, as they **learn to suture, take blood pressure, and practice more advanced procedures on life-like mannequins.**

NYLF Medicine students get an inside look at the process of becoming a health care provider. The program delivers the rare opportunity to gain an increased understanding of the patient-doctor relationship.

NYLF Medicine is administered by **professionally qualified educators and subject matter experts**, including current medical students, program alumni, and secondary school teachers who serve as faculty advisors.

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**Tuition for NYLF Medicine covers** safe and comfortable housing, two meals per day, presentations, site discoveries at local medical institutions, professional instruction, and curriculum materials. Students should bring money for one meal per day, souvenirs, and other incidentals (snacks, phone calls, etc.). Transportation to and from the program city is not included.

Scholarships are available on a **financial need and academic achievement basis** to students. Our fundraising guide offers suggestions to students who choose to fundraise, and can be accessed at ~~NYLF Medicine~~

**Low student-to-staff ratios are strictly maintained at the forum to ensure a safe and successful program for all students.**

**Enrolled students are provided with the opportunity to print and distribute press releases to their local media regarding their participation in NYLF Medicine.**

~~All students attending NYLF Medicine are awarded personalized~~  
**Certificate of Completion** and may request **Letters of Participation** for college applications.

Program alumni are **automatically granted membership in the alumni association.**

**NYLF Medicine is recognized and approved by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and aligns with national standards in education.**

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## NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM: MEDICINE

### *Information*

The National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF): Medicine, an Envision program, is an educational experience created specifically to prepare highly motivated high school students for their future professional careers.

NYLF Medicine is a unique nine-day program for students planning careers in medicine. The program is held on college campuses each summer in Atlanta, San Francisco, Boston, Houston, Los Angeles, New York City, Raleigh-Durham, and Washington, DC, and receives strong support from educators and members of the medical community. By attending NYLF Medicine, students can also receive college credit through George Mason University.

### *Selection*

NYLF Medicine seeks high school students with academic promise, leadership potential, and an interest in the field of medicine.

Students who are ready to meet the standards set by NYLF Medicine are selected:

- By educators, advisors, youth organizations, and participating institutions
- By alumni of Envision leadership and career exploration programs
- Through our academic partnership with George Mason University, proven academic excellence, demonstrated extracurricular involvement, community service, or other qualified academic and leadership achievement, such as successful completion of the pre-college evaluation of the National Research Center for College and University Admissions (NRCCUA)

NYLF Medicine abides by high standards to ensure an unparalleled experience for the nation's most motivated students who attend the program.

### *Scholarship Awards, Sponsorships, and Student Fundraising*

Envision offers a limited number of partial scholarships to qualified students each year based upon financial need, scholastic merit, leadership achievements, and other factors. For students who are interested in fundraising to help offset the cost of tuition, please refer to the Envision Fundraising Guide in the Fundraising section of the website.

To access our scholarship application and fundraising guide, visit our website at **NYLFmed.com**. Both the scholarship application process and fundraising will take time, so it is strongly advised that students pursuing either of these methods start as early as possible.

### *Location and Supervision*

NYLF Medicine is directed by trained faculty advisors and maintains a low student-to-staff ratio to ensure a safe and successful program experience. All transportation during the program is by private motor coach.

Locations for 2016 sessions include Emory University, Atlanta; University of California at Berkeley, San Francisco; Babson College, Boston; University of Houston; University of California at Los Angeles; Hofstra University, New York; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Raleigh-Durham; and the University of Maryland in the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

### *Tuition*

Tuition for the nine-day program varies from \$3,195 to \$3,395 and covers housing, two meals per day, instruction, supervisory personnel, program materials, all forum activities and site discoveries, and local transportation during the program. Transportation to and from the forum city is not included. Students will need money only for one meal per day and incidentals they wish to purchase.

### *Airport Shuttle Service*

Shuttle service between campus locations and designated airports is available on the first and last days of the forum. There is a \$70 nonrefundable roundtrip fee for this service or a \$35 fee for one-way service. Staff will be stationed in the local airports to assist arriving students. Details about arrival windows and the airport shuttle service will be included in your online acceptance materials, once your enrollment is complete.



Students attending NYLF Medicine are eligible to receive two college credits through George Mason University. While the average cost of a college credit at a four-year institution is \$600, the total cost of both NYLF Medicine credits is just \$200. To apply for this credit, simply select the option during the online enrollment process.