

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Leadership Arlington Youth Program Congratulates its Newest Class of Young Leaders Committed to Community Involvement

Arlington, VA - Leadership Center for Excellence and Leadership Arlington (LCE/LA) is proud to announce the graduation of the Leadership Arlington Youth Program Class of 2016.

The Class of 2016 was comprised of 30 youth leaders who are rising juniors and seniors in local high schools. On Thursday, August 11, 2016, these young leaders graduated at a ceremony held in Marymount University's Reinsch Library Auditorium.

During the first two weeks of August, the Youth Program met at different business, nonprofit and government locations throughout Arlington County, providing participants with the hands-on opportunity to be exposed to diverse organizations and meet with leaders from our community.

"While we may have entered our first week of the Youth Program hesitantly, by the end of our beginning four days together, it was clear that this program would be teaching us more than we could have ever imaged." shared participant Erin Claeys. "We grew closer as a class; we grew confident in our leadership skills; and we grew more and more excited for all the next week would bring."

Participants also visited 21 area nonprofits to learn about the work and service each site provides to the community. Students then developed their own criteria to evaluate which nonprofit they would like to award a grant of \$1,000, which was generously provided to LCE/LA by the [Inter-Service Club Council of Arlington](#).

At the graduation ceremony, the students presented [Arlington Thrive](#) with this year's \$1,000 grant. Participant Sophia Anderson shared how picking a nonprofit to receive the grant "was a very challenging decision to make," but her class was impressed by Arlington Thrive's vast services to the Arlington community.



Congratulations to the Leadership Arlington Youth Program Class of 2016! Please see the list below of the youth leaders in this year's graduating class. For pictures from the program days and graduation ceremony, please visit the [Facebook album](#).



Leadership Arlington Youth Program Class of 2016

- **Sophia Anderson**, H-B Woodlawn
- **Josette Barrans**, Yorktown High School
- **Amanda Bloom**, Wakefield High School
- **Lydia Boles**, H-B Woodlawn High School
- **Reagan Briere**, Yorktown High School
- **Karol Calvimontes**, Bishop O'Connell
- **Simer Choudhary**, Washington-Lee High School
- **Erin Claeys**, H-B Woodlawn
- **Mary Corina**, H-B Woodlawn
- **Olivia Cox**, Yorktown High School
- **Anna DeFalco**, Yorktown High School
- **Cate Farmer**, Yorktown High School
- **Mathew Gonzalez**, Yorktown High School
- **Kaiya Gordon**, H-B Woodlawn
- **Mary Helsper**, Yorktown High School
- **Tiffany Hidalgo**, Wakefield High School
- **Bryn Kabiri**, H-B Woodlawn
- **Prashanth Kallat**, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
- **Nick Kampeas**, H-B Woodlawn
- **Tyler LaPointe**, Wakefield High School
- **Nino Lovo-Ochoa**, Wakefield High School
- **Claire Morris**, Yorktown High School
- **Jeremiah Parker**, Wakefield High School
- **Zach Reynolds**, Washington-Lee High School
- **Kathryne Schauf**, Bishop O'Connell
- **Tina Schneider**, H-B Woodlawn
- **Will Senkus**, H-B Woodlawn
- **Claire Shea**, Yorktown High School
- **Rebecca Smith**, Washington-Lee High School
- **Haben Yohannes**, Washington-Lee High School

Thank you to the 2016 Youth Program Premier Sponsor [Venable](#) and Major Supporter [Ellen M. Bozman Fund of the Arlington Community Foundation](#). Additionally, LCE/LA thanks the [Inter-Service Club Council](#), [Marymount University](#), [National Cooperative Bank](#) and the [Susan and Thomas P. Duke Fund of the Arlington Community Foundation](#) for their investment in this program as well as [Enterprise Knowledge](#) and [Trader Joe's](#).

About Leadership Center for Excellence and Leadership Arlington

The mission of Leadership Center for Excellence and Leadership Arlington is to enlighten, inspire and connect leaders through community building and leadership development. For more information, visit www.leadercenter.org or call 703-528-2522.