

A Celebration of Black History in the District

2018 Black History Month Influential Leader Award Winners

D'Yor Giles
Garrison Elementary School

Keith Moore
Somerset Preparatory Academy Public Charter School

About the Award

The **2018 Black History Month Influential Leader Award** is presented by the Council of the District of Columbia to two youth in the District who have distinguished themselves as rising peer leaders in their respective communities through excellence in service, academic achievement, creative arts, advocacy, community building, and/or athletic achievement. Their words and actions will have also displayed the ideals of Carter G. Woodson, the founder of Negro History Week, as an independent thinker and supporter of African-American history and culture. Principals, teachers, administrators, and other school officials were invited to nominate candidates by DC Public Schools and the Public Charter School Board.

Award Winners

D'Yor Giles, Garrison Elementary School

D'Yor was nominated by Dr. Tamyka Morant, Assistant Principal at Garrison Elementary School. In addition to being an Honor Roll student, she is a considerate classmate who consistently demonstrates good citizenship and leadership skills. She is described by her school leaders as an especially responsible, kind, inquisitive, smart, and talented fifth grade student who always tries to make other students feel comfortable and included.

If she notices a student is having a bad day or is being teased, D'Yor immediately intervenes rather than just being a passive bystander. Communities across the District have seen the heartbreaking effects of bullying in school, so it is particularly encouraging to have students like D'Yor confidently be committed to standing up for the right thing. She also often sacrifices her own free time during recess to assist teachers at the school with hospitality committee matters and other errands.



Perhaps most impressively, D'Yor is a talented dancer and choreographer. For two consecutive years, she has assisted her PE teacher with developing choreography for Garrison's winter show. This school year, D'Yor choreographed and taught the dance for the winter program to the entire fifth grade class on her own. Additionally, she worked with the Assistant Principal to co-choreograph and teach a dance to Beyonce's "Freedom" to students in 4th and 5th grade for the school's Black History Month assembly. D'Yor will also perform as part of the Living Museum during that assembly and is taking the lead to help some Kindergarten through 2nd grade students prepare their scripts for the program.

D'Yor is truly a model student, well-respected by her peers and teachers, and is a positive influence on not only her own classmates but also the other Garrison Wildcats.

Keith Moore, Somerset Preparatory Academy Public Charter School

Keith Moore, the first student to receive two nominations, was recommended by Steven Morris and Yasmin Rice, both teachers at Somerset Preparatory Academy Public Charter School.

A consistent Honor Roll student, Keith maintains a 3.5 grade point average, was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society, and volunteers monthly to do community service. He is a past Mock Trial participant and, through his TV Production course, has written, cast, produced, and co-hosted Somerset's daily broadcast, "The Daily Show."

Keith has been a member of The Distinguished Gentlemen of Somerset Prep for four years and, this school year, began serving as president of the organization. The Distinguished Gentlemen are a group of young men who pride themselves on academic excellence and understanding what it means to be gentlemen. Keith leads their participation in various types of community-based activities where they engage with community leaders, politicians, and church organizations, among others. The group's goal is to encourage male students to exceed their personal expectations, build social awareness, and achieve academically while modeling integrity and respect for themselves and others.

Keith has shown an outstanding commitment to encouraging his peers to be positive, hard-working, and ambitious in taking on leadership roles both in class and after school. He is described by his school leaders as confident, mature, caring, intuitive, intelligent, extremely respectful, and "the perfect example of how the efforts of one person can truly make a difference."

