



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 6, 2009

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Seton Academy Junior Honored by YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago as 5-Star Ambassador Nominee

*Paige Delaney of South Holland named one of five finalists at Black and Hispanic Achievers
Teen Summit in Minneapolis*

CHICAGO – The YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago and its Black and Hispanic Achievers college readiness program (BAHA) recently nominated Paige Delaney of South Holland, Illinois, to receive a 5-Star Ambassador Award at the BAHA Regional Teen Summit held in Minneapolis, MN. Chosen out of more than 500 teens participating in the conference from across the Midwest, Paige was recognized as one of the Midwest region's top five finalists for the national award.

The YMCA's 5-Star Ambassador Award recognizes a high school sophomore or junior in the BAHA program who best exemplifies the five pillars of the National BAHA pledge – "I represent myself, my family, my community, my school and my race, with dignity and excellence."

In an essay describing why she should be chosen as a 5-Star Ambassador, Paige wrote, "I feel I represent myself on a daily basis with dignity and excellence. I always strive towards being the very best person that I can be... I represent my family by acting like the young lady I was raised to be... I represent my community by my strong dedication to the YMCA Black and Hispanic Achievers program... I represent my school by working extremely hard to keep my grades high and remain in the top 10 of my class for the last 3 years... I represent my race by being confident with who I am and where I came from."

A junior at Seaton Academy, in South Holland, Illinois, Paige is a member of the National Honor Society, serves as secretary for the National English Honor Society, and maintains a 3.8/4.0 G.P.A.

"Not only is Paige an exemplary student, she has been a true asset to the BAHA program, never missing a meeting or activity and always willing to take a leadership role," said Tequilla Lopez, program coordinator for the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago's BAHA program. "Paige is a hard worker, achiever and outstanding example of the National Black and Hispanic Achievers program values. The YMCA was proud to have her represent Chicago at this year's Teen Summit."

The YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago's BAHA program is part of a national program that fosters the academic, personal and career development of African-American and Latino youth in 7th-12th grades. Through BAHA, the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago helps youth build a positive sense of self and character, raises academic standards for youth, and recognizes and promotes achievement, both of youth and of African-American and Latino adults in the community.

Through its 65 locations and more than 100 extension sites, the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago helps children learn and grow, teaches young people to lead, brings families closer, and encourages individual health and well-being. The fourth largest non-profit in Chicago and one of the largest human services organizations in the nation, YMCA programs impact hundreds of thousands of lives annually, helping to strengthen neighborhoods and respond to community needs across Chicagoland. To learn more, visit www.ymcachgo.org.

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