



“THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK”
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WHITE PLAINS YOUTH BUREAU TO SPONSOR 2ND ANNUAL STEM AWARDS

White Plains, New York, May 23, 2017. The White Plains Youth Bureau will hold its 2nd Annual STEM Awards Recognition Program on Thursday, May 25, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Jaguar Room at the New York Power Authority headquarters on 123 Main Street in White Plains. The program is designed to honor and recognize educators, health professionals, scientists, engineers, technologists and teachers who impact the lives of children and youth through STEM. The White Plains Youth Bureau has prioritized STEM as a major focal point for children and youth in its programming. The Youth Bureau just completed its first STEM Fair which attracted more than one hundred fifty children.

Mayor Tom Roach said, "It's important that our youth, starting at their earliest stages of development, be exposed to STEM and STEM careers. The White Plains job market is one of the fastest growing employment markets in New York State. Many of today's high growth job sectors are in STEM. It's important that we teach our children that taking the more difficult courses in science and math will have significant benefits for their employment future."

Frank Williams, Jr., Youth Bureau Director, indicated that the Youth Bureau will continue to hold Science Fairs each year. "It's important that our youth not be afraid to take the more rigorous science and math courses. These courses will lead to careers in STEM, and that's where the jobs of the future will be." Statistics from the Bureau of Labor indicate that the number of STEM jobs will grow by 9 million through 2022.

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“As the nation’s largest public electric utility, the New York Power Authority recognizes that the cultivation of STEM literacy is essential to the development of the educated workforce we need for the many career opportunities in the energy industry,” said Lisa Payne Wansley, Vice President, Environmental Justice, New York Power Authority. “We are proud to partner with the White Plains Youth Bureau and Mayor Roach to recognize the 2nd Annual STEM Awards honorees.”

The honorees at this year’s STEM Awards program are: Dr. Priti Tiwari, Chemist, SUNY Oneonta, formerly STEM Coordinator in the Youth Bureau’s After School Connection program; Dawn Tucker, Engineer, Youth Bureau’s Real G.I.R.L.S. Academy, Adrien Mervielle, Engineer, Real G.I.R.L.S. Academy, Stephanie Bentivenga, Nurse, White Plains Hospital, Candace Foster, Nurse, White Plains Hospital, Jherlyn “Jerry” Lopez, Teacher, White Plains Middle School – Eastview, Lise Groudeau, Computer Instructional Assistant, White Plains Middle School – Highlands and Michelle Ifill-Roseau, Science Teacher, White Plains High School.

Frank Williams, Jr. stated that he is especially happy this year as Adrien Merveille, Stephanie Bentivenga and Candace Foster are former Youth Bureau youth and graduates of White Plains High School. Additionally, Candace Foster lost a leg in a car accident four years ago. Within less than a year, she was back at her job as a nurse at White Plains Hospital. She is an inspiration to all of us.

The Speaker for the program will be Lisa P. Wansley, Vice President, Environmental Justice and Sustainability, New York Power Authority.

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