

Transfer Agents

Story by James Clark
Photos by Roberto Soler

These scholars fit the bill.

Over \$40,000 in scholarship funding and prizes was awarded to seven local students from New York City and surrounding areas from the Financial Service Centers of New York (FSCNY) and MoneyGram.

It was the highest annual amount ever granted by the scholarship program, which grants the funding to high school students deemed meritorious for academic achievements and volunteer efforts.

Since its inception in 1996, the program has awarded approximately \$800,000 to over 300 students.

FSCNY represents the independent business owners of the New York check cashing industry, consisting of approximately 530 locations.

A luncheon and awards ceremony was held this past Tues., May 10th for the students and family members during FSCNY's Annual Conference.

Offering a keynote address was Assemblymember Michael Blake, for whom the event offered a specific resonance.

Blake was himself a FSCNY/Moneygram scholarship recipient.

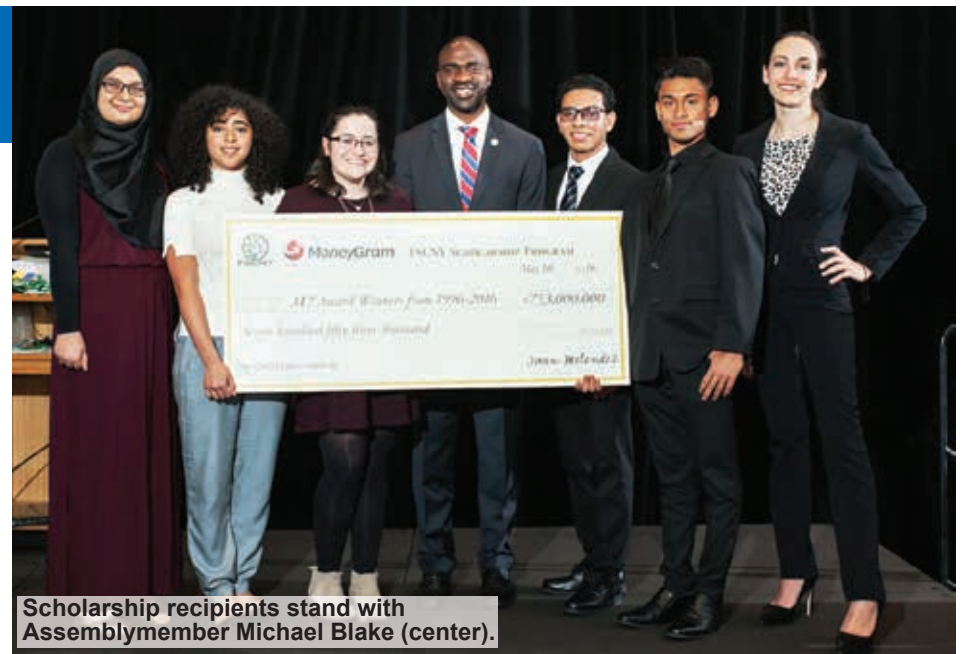
"If I [hadn't been here] 16 years ago, I wouldn't be here now," he said, expressing his gratitude for the recognition that helped the then-high school senior make his move to the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University.

Before his election in 2014 as a state representative of the 79th District in the Bronx, Blake held various titles in the Obama administration, including Associate Director of Public Engagement and Deputy Associate Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.

"FSCNY's Scholarship Program made a strong difference in my life," said Blake. "[It] gave me the foundation to provide long-term contributions to my community. I [want to] motivate [the students] to pursue a lifetime of achievement, excellence and civic engagement. I thank and congratulate FSCNY for its commitment to making education and opportunity a priority of its community outreach programs."

He said that the scholarships served as incentives for students to persevere in their efforts upon arriving on campus, noting that the first year can sometimes be a difficult transition.

"Giving back is critical. When you support



Scholarship recipients stand with Assemblymember Michael Blake (center).

a scholarship you're not just supporting that one person, you support everyone in their network that sees the potential," remarked Blake. "People invested in me, and I want them to know that people will invest in them too."

Scholarship Program Chairperson Gigi Guerrero-Ivanovic said that applicants hailed from all five boroughs and adjacent counties. The variety of aspirations they represented, she said, were inspiring and moving.

"These students have hundreds and hundreds of hours in community service," marveled Guerrero-Ivanovic. "We have kids that come from low-income communities

that are struggling to get into college, and they don't want to get into big debt. Our scholarship is a way of allowing them to achieve their dreams and their goals."

After an application review and student interview process, FSCNY's Scholarship Committee selected two grand prize winners for the William Siegel Scholarship and Gene Schott Scholarship Awards (\$7,500 each), and five First Place Scholarship Award winners (\$5,000 each). Each winner also received a laptop computer courtesy of TellerMetrix, a FSCNY associate member.

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CALL FOR PHOTOS: Photographers of all levels are invited to submit their best photos and stories that capture the essence of the neighborhoods of the South Bronx. Selected photos will be exhibited at the future site of the Roberto Clemente Plaza, transforming the construction site fence into a temporary photo exhibition from July to November 2016.

AWARDS: Winning photo entries will be announced at the Bronx Museum for the Arts. Winners will receive a \$325 honorarium per selected photo.

HOW TO ENTER: Entry is free and accepted online via SlideRoom (www.nycddc.slideroom.com). Entries must be received by 11:59pm EST on May 31, 2016.



- 1 MAY 16: COMPETITION STARTS
- 2 MAY 31: COMPETITION CLOSES
- 3 JUNE 1-2: SELECTION & NOTIFICATION
- 4 JUNE 9: FINAL AWARDS
- 5 JULY-NOV: PHOTO EXHIBITION

BRONX PHOTO STORIES CONTEST

Agentes Transformadores

Story by James Clark
Photos by Roberto Soler

Estos eruditos encajan en el proyecto.

Más de \$40,000 en fondos para becas y premios fueron otorgados a siete estudiantes locales de la ciudad de Nueva York y de las áreas adyacentes de los Centros de Servicio Financiero de Nueva York (FSCNY, por sus siglas en inglés) y MoneyGram.

Es la cantidad anual más alta otorgada por el programa de becas, que otorga los fondos a estudiantes meritorios de escuela superior por las organizaciones.

Desde su creación en el 1996, el programa ha otorgado aproximadamente \$800,000 a más de 300 estudiantes.

FSCNY representa los dueños de negocios independientes de la industria de cambiar dinero en Nueva York, que consiste en aproximadamente 530 localidades para cambiar cheques.

Un almuerzo y ceremonia de premios fue celebrada el pasado martes, 10 de mayo para los estudiantes y sus familias durante la Conferencia Anual de FSCNY.

Como discurso principal estuvo el miembro de la Asamblea Michael Blake, para quien el evento ofrecía una resonancia específica.

Blake, en el pasado, recibió una de las becas



"Me permitirá enfocarme en mi educación y metas", dijo Jerson Mejía Castro.

FSCNY/Moneygram.

"Si yo no hubiera estado aquí 16 años atrás, yo no estaría aquí hoy en día", dijo, expresando su gratitud por el reconocimiento que ayudó al entonces estudiante de escuela superior a hacer su movimiento hacia la Escuela de Periodismo Medill en la Universidad Northwestern.

Antes de su elección en 2014 como representante estatal del Distrito 79 en el Bronx, Blake ocupó



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Jerson Mejía Castro, a graduating senior at the High School of Technology and Computers in the Bronx, was selected for the Gene Schott Memorial Scholarship.

Castro, who hails from an immigrant family from Honduras, will be attending New York University in the fall.

He plans to enroll as a pre-med student, and eventually become a Primary Care Physician who will practice in under-represented areas like the Bronx.

It is a goal rooted in his childhood experience of acting as a translator for his family members during doctor's visits.

"My mom not being able to speak English and the doctor not being able to speak Spanish caused some awkward moments," he recalled. "If I didn't like what the doctor would say, I would loosely translate it back to my mom, which wasn't really fair to her."

Additional scholarship winners were: Rose Relken from White Plains; Julianne Sanscartier of Westchester; Zahra Aboul-Hassan from Manhattan; Sandeep Kaur and Rahat Hossany of Queens, and Sara Taha from Staten Island.

Castro said that the scholarship had already provided transformative for him and his family.

"This is going to provide the financial support that my mother can't provide for me," he beamed. "It will allow me to focus on my education and goals."

For more information about FSCNY's Scholarships and other community programs, visit www.fscny.org.

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Rose Reiken recibió la beca 'William Siegel Memorial'.

varios títulos en la administración de Obama, incluyendo Director Asociado de Compromiso Público y Director Asociado Adjunto de la Oficina de Asuntos Intergubernamentales.

"El Programa de Becas de FSCNY hizo una gran diferencia en mi vida", dijo Blake. "Me dio la fundación para proveer contribuciones a largo plazo a mi comunidad. Deseo motivar los estudiantes a perseguir una vida de logros, excelencia y compromiso civil. Le dio las gracias y felicito a FSCNY por su compromiso por hacer de la educación y la oportunidad una prioridad en sus programas de alcance a la comunidad".

Dijo que las becas sirven como incentivos para que los estudiantes perseveren en sus esfuerzos una vez llegan al recinto, señalando que el primer año algunas veces puede ser una transición difícil.

"El devolver es crítico. Cuando usted apoya con una beca usted no solo está apoyando a esa persona, está apoyando a todo el mundo en su



"El devolver es crítico", dijo Blake.

red de trabajo que ve el potencial", señaló Blake. "La gente invirtió en mí, y yo deseo que ellos sepan que la gente también va a invertir en ellos".

Gigi Guerrero-Ivanovic, Presidenta del Programa de Becas dijo que los solicitantes vienen de los cinco condados y condados adyacentes. La variedad de aspiraciones que ellos representan, dijo ella, fueron inspiradoras y motivadoras.

"Estos estudiantes tienen cientos y cientos de horas en servicio comunal", se maravilló Guerrero-Ivanovic. "Tenemos jóvenes que vienen de comunidades de bajos ingresos que están luchando para entrar a la universidad, y no desean entrar en grandes deudas. Nuestra beca es una manera de permitirles el lograr sus sueños y sus metas".

Luego de una revisión de la solicitud y un proceso de entrevista al estudiante, el Comité de Becas de FSCNY selecciona dos grandes ganadores para la Beca William Siegel y el

Premio Gene Schott (\$7,500 cada una), y cinco ganadores del Premio de Primer Lugar (\$5,000 cada uno). Cada ganador también recibe una 'laptop' cortesía de TellerMetrix, miembro asociado de FSCNY.

Jerson Mejía Castro, un graduado de la Escuela Superior de Tecnología y Computadoras en el Bronx, fue seleccionado para la Beca Gene Schott Memorial.

Castro, quien viene de una familia de inmigrantes de Honduras, estará asistiendo a la Universidad de Nueva York en el otoño.

Planea inscribirse como estudiante de pre-médica y eventualmente pasar a ser Médico Primario quien trabajará en áreas marginadas como el Bronx.

Es una meta arraigada de su experiencia en su niñez actuando como traductor para los miembros de su familia durante las visitas al doctor.

"Mi madre que no hablaba inglés y el doctor que no hablaba español causaba algunos momentos difíciles", recordó. "Si a mí no me gustaba lo que el doctor decía, yo cambiaba la traducción, lo cual no era justo para ella".

Los ganadores adicionales de las becas lo fueron: Rose Relken de White Plains; Julianne Sanscartier de Westchester; Zahra Aboul-Hassan de Manhattan; Sandeep Kaur y Rahat Hossany de Queens y Sara Taha de Staten Island.

Castro dijo que la beca ya ha provisto transformación para él y su familia.

"Esto va a suministrar el apoyo financiero que mi madre no puede proveerme", dijo. "Me permitirá enfocarme en mi educación y metas".

Para más información acerca de las Becas FSCNY y otros programas comunales, visite www.fscny.org.



Fight fraud—shred instead!



Assemblyman Marcos A. Crespo



Join us for a free shredding day.

Friday, May 20, 2016
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
PS 75: 984 Faile St.

Shredding will take place at Lyons Square Playground, Bryant Avenue between Aldus St. and Bruckner Blvd.

Bring up to three bags of paper (any size or type of bag) to be shredded. This rain or shine event is first come, first served, and you do not need to RSVP. For more information, please visit <https://aarp.cvent.com/BronxShreds>.

Site may close early in the event the truck fills up.

FRAUD WATCH NETWORK
AARP Real Possibilities

aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork