As excitement builds for another Derby Festival and the possibility of another Triple Crown winner, the Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program® celebrates its own crowning achievement. UofL freshman Daphne Woolridge was one of the five princesses selected to the Kentucky Derby Festival Royal Court®, the third Scholar in recent years.

Daphne, known as our "million dollar Scholar" for receiving $1.07 million in scholarships, notes that her experience as a Scholar helped prepare her for the role of princess. “The program developed my confidence to both apply and excel during the interview process. Being a Scholar ambassador has developed my understanding of what it means to represent something larger than myself. Going to events like the Evening of Jazz fundraiser helped me learn how to mingle with others and speak highly on the program's behalf. The big difference now is that I'm representing the entire city of Louisville. It is because of the program that I know 'I can, I must, I will be somebody' and that somebody just happens to be a princess.”

Daphne graduated from Louisville Male High School in May 2016 and is currently a Dean's List Porter Scholar at UofL pursuing a major in Secondary Education with a minor in Pan-African Studies. She is also a member of UofL’s Minority Teacher Recruitment Project and C.O.N.E.C.T. Peer Mentoring Program, as well as a volunteer at Indian Trail Elementary School.

Daphne follows her two predecessors, Dominique Luster and Eriauna Stratton, both from the Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program® Class of 2010. Dominique Luster, a 2013 Derby Festival Princess, agrees with Daphne. “Being a Whitney M. YOUNG Scholar prepared me to be a princess, and an adult, in countless holistic ways - not just academic. I learned how to dress with dignity and poise modeling after Faye Owens, the former Director Educational Programs. Scholars were advised never to leave the house in sweatpants and to display a respectable appearance at all times. When reading aloud, we were expected to stand up and speak with conviction. We were always taught to be present and to invest in our long-term goals. We also learned about dining etiquette and how to shake hands properly. As a Derby Festival Princess, networking and being a representative means being able to walk the walk, not just talk the talk (and know which water glass is yours).”

Dominique Luster currently works as a Teenie Harris Archivist at the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh, maintaining a collection of approximately 80,000 images photographed by Charles "Teenie" Harris of Pittsburgh’s African American community from the 1930s-1970s. She says the archive “might be one of the most complete insights into African American urban life at that time.” Dominique also gives back to her community by serving on the boards of the YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh Young Leaders, Rankin Christian Center, and the Black Caucus of the American Library Association. She is also a member of the Junior League of Pittsburgh and the Urban League Young Professionals of Greater Pittsburgh.

Eriauna Stratton, a 2014 Derby Festival Princess, adds, “being a Scholar taught me that the privilege is an honor. I was reminded of that every time I said the Scholar Oath at the Educational Clinics. This reminder was something that kept me humble as a princess, especially during the long days and early mornings. Lastly, in the Scholars program, I was surrounded by various people who had an array of cultures, beliefs and backgrounds. This helped me develop a cultural awareness, and as a result, I was able to connect with the variety of people I met throughout my princess journey.”

Eriauna currently teaches kindergarten at Hartstern Elementary School where she started an after-school program called GIRLS (Goal Setting, (Continued on page 3)
Dear Friends,

It has become a tradition for students in the Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program® to recite the Scholar Oath at every gathering. This oath, written by an anonymous author, helps to instill a sense of determination within each Scholar as they pursue their academic goals.

As President of Lincoln Foundation, I am proud to witness Scholars fully embrace the meaning behind the Scholar Oath. These words have helped Scholars overcome barriers in their path to achieve great things, such as Daphne Woolridge, Dominique Luster and Eriauna Stratton who all hold the distinct honor of being a Kentucky Derby Festival Princess. Each in her own way demonstrates being “a winner first, a winner last, for everyone to see.”

The sentiment of the Scholar Oath extends beyond the Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program®. Teaching young people to be their best against all the odds is part of the mission and philosophy of all Lincoln Foundation educational enrichment programs. It is especially gratifying to see the successes of the participants in our summer Project BUILD and Math & Science Program. Sherlene Shanklin and Gary Hobbs are just examples of the individuals who have benefited from these programs and are now excelling in their chosen careers.

Lincoln Foundation is grateful to its many friends, donors and educational and community engagement partners that help enable program success. This support has made it possible for us to deliver our educational enrichment programs that make a difference. It is a privilege for me to share the stories in this newsletter that showcase how we positively impact the lives of those we serve. Together, we are all winners.

Sincerely,

Larry M. McDonald
President
The summer before her senior year, Sherlene Shanklin remembers being “in a room full of motivated youth who all wanted to better their circumstances and knew that this inaugural program would have a major impact on their careers.” Sherlene, referring to her experience in Project BUILD, a four-week, summer program that introduces promising high school juniors and seniors to the world of business, was right. Project BUILD (Business United In Leadership Development) has produced many successful entrepreneurs, corporate executives and community leaders beginning with that inaugural class in 1986.

The program, both then and now, provides students with a solid business foundation and understanding about what it takes to be successful in business. Program partners like the UofL College of Business (facilitated by Dr. Jay T. Brandi, Chair and Professor, Department of Finance), Brown-Forman, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, GE, Humana Inc., The Mary E. Yarbrough Fund, Old National Bank, PNC Bank and UPS help enhance student experiences. According to Sherlene, “The advice, instruction and real-life scenarios presented in the program have been invaluable. That little edge has given me an edge throughout my entire career.” Sherlene has built a successful career based on that solid foundation. As President/Owner of VIPP Communications, a public relations, marketing, branding, audio & video production firm, she’s been behind the scenes of some major local and national events and news. Some notable clients include NFL Super Bowl 39 MVP Deion Branch, NBA & NCAA basketball champion Derek Anderson, sculptor Ed Hamilton, DJ Dwight “Kaos” Chatman and businessman Steve Mudd. Sherlene is also co-owner of a jewelry company called VIPP Style, a Multi-Media Content Editor for WHAS11 Television, creator of The411, and a freelance field producer and voiceover artist for CNN and Al-Jazeera English.

Sherlene's outstanding achievements include two Emmy nominations as well as numerous awards and recognitions for her business and community service. She earned two Masters Degrees, Management and Human Resources Development respectively, from Webster University. Sherlene also earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communications and Broadcasting with a minor in Fashion Design from Western Kentucky University. She is a member of the Eta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Gamma Sigma Sigma service sorority, J.L. Roberts Scholarship Committee of Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Louisville Association of Black Journalists and The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels. She also gives back to Lincoln Foundation by serving on the Project BUILD Steering Committee and offering event planning assistance for the annual Evening of Jazz fundraiser.

A field trip to General Electric as part of the summer Math & Science Program particularly inspired Gary Hobbs. The three-week program prepares high school students for their next levels in math and science thanks in part to partners like GE Appliances, UofL College of Arts & Sciences, Bernheim Arboretum & Research Forest, Jefferson County Public Schools, LG&E and KU Energy LLC, MSD, Riverthon and UPS. Hobbs, a successful engineer, executive, developer and entrepreneur, says “it helped me to create a vision of what I could be if I worked hard. It helped me to dream big! I ultimately became an electrical engineer and received three patents. I later became an entrepreneur and developed a multi-million dollar development and construction company.”

After graduating from Louisville Male High School, Hobbs attended Purdue University where he received a B.S. and M.S. in Electrical Engineering and an M.B.A. in Finance. He had a successful corporate career in the technology and healthcare industries, but in 2005, Hobbs and wife, Lori, became entrepreneurs. Recognizing the need for more affordable housing in Indianapolis, they founded BWi, LLC, a holding company focusing on urban development. Business strategic imperatives focus on affordable housing projects from conception, construction, completion and on-going management sustainability. Hobbs helped BWi grow into a multi-million company earning the 2nd place ranking of the fastest growing urban-focused company in the nation by Fortune magazine in 2015.

Hobbs maintains that while success is nice, having a purpose behind making a profit is what's really important. As “a developer with a purpose”, he primarily works in urban communities whose residents are elderly, single parents, and young adults just out of foster care. In one such project, BWi converted an abandoned corrections facility into multi-unit apartments for former homeless residents with mental health challenges. Community service is also a priority for Hobbs having served on the boards of organizations like Boy Scouts of America, Indianapolis Urban League, Reconnect our Waterways (ROW) and Indiana Career Council.

For information about Project BUILD and the Math & Science Program, please visit www.lincolnfdn.org.
June 4 - June 16
WYSP Summer Institute (12th Grade)
Murray State University

June 5 - June 30
Project BUILD (11 - 12th Grades)
University of Louisville College of Business

June 11 - June 23
WYSP Summer Institute (10th Grade)
University of Kentucky

June 12 - June 30
Math & Science Program (9 - 12th Grades)
University of Louisville College of Arts & Sciences

July 10 - 14 & July 24 - 28
Hands On Minds On (7th Grade)
UofL Gheens Science Hall & Rauch Planetarium

July 10 - 21
Technology & Study Skills Program (8th Grade)
Central High School

July 16 - July 28
WYSP Summer Institute (10th Grade)
Georgetown College

August 18
22nd Annual Evening of Jazz
KCD Theater, Kentucky Country Day School

Our Mission
To provide educational enrichment programs that develop and support youth in overcoming barriers to achievement

Youth Organized to Understand New Goals

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