

Youth of the Year - Zakeya Herring

Zakeya Herring is a senior at James Hillhouse High School with an unweighted GPA of 4.004, a weighted GPA of 5.033 and is ranked number 1 in her graduating class of 214. In 2015, Zakeya was inducted into the National Honor Society. She is President of Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) New Haven, CT Chapter. She is the varsity captain of the Hillhouse Math Team and she is also involved in the school's New Haven Public Safety program where she is certified for First Aid/CPR training and is currently taking an Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) course.

Zakeya has completed 11 college courses, maintaining mostly an A average at Gateway Community College, Southern Connecticut State University and Yale University. The Shafer Family Scholarship provided Zakeya the opportunity to stay on campus at Yale University for 2 of these courses during the 2015 Summer Session. She is currently enrolled in her 12th college class at Southern Connecticut State University.

Zakeya volunteers at Kiddie Korner Daycare and the Art Cart with children at Yale New Haven Hospital. Because of her desire to become a nurse, Zakeya has applied and been accepted into the School to Career Internship program where she is a Clinical Intern at Yale New Haven Hospital Saint Raphael's site.

Zakeya award and achievements include leadership in the school community by South Central Area Superintendents' Association, the Yale Universities Book Award and the class Valedictorian. Zakeya's goals are to be a mentor to youth, excel academically and to give back to her community. Zakeya will be attending the University of Connecticut in the fall.