



CONTACT: Tracy Kessler
nypgoldenace@gmail.com

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LOCAL NON-PROFIT HOSTS 9TH ANNUAL AWARDS GALA RECOGNIZING TALLAHASSEE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The Tallahassee Network of Young Professionals (NYP) announced the winners of the ninth annual Golden A.C.E Awards & Gala at a ceremony held June 4th, 2022 at the Capital City Country Club in Tallahassee, FL. This prestigious event was held to recognize the top young professionals living in Tallahassee that exemplify authentic community engagement, or A.C.E.

“These awards celebrate the young leaders who are making a difference, not just professionally, but in their communities. These awards allow us to recognize those who might otherwise go unnoticed.” said Tracy Kessler president of the Tallahassee Network of Young Professionals. “The Golden A.C.E. awards celebrate the talented young professionals that exist in our own backyard who help make Tallahassee a city where young professionals choose to live, work, play and stay.”

Tallahassee Mayor John Dailey awarded the highest recognition of Top A.C.E. to Teylor Parks, a social strategist, entrepreneur, and community activist who tirelessly advocates for education reform focusing on closing the achievement gap for minority and impoverished youth. An Atlanta native who won a scholarship to attend and graduate from Tallahassee Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University’s College, Ms. Parks has spearheaded multiple local community programs including the creation of her own organization, launched in 2017, Dreamers at FAMU. She has led more than 80 collegiate volunteers to tutor and host STEAM projects with over 300 local K-12 students. She has led book and toy drives for foster children, provided food and water to low-income students, and partnered with other organizations to provide hygiene products and clothes to immigrants. She launched Achieve in Color, an organization where she is able to provide microgrants to teachers and community leaders, and Breathe in color, a positivity brand that allows her to advocate for mental health wellness.

As the Top A.C.E. winner, Ms. Parks selected the non-profit Friends of FAM, Inc. as her charity of choice to receive a \$1,000 donation from NYP. Friends of FAM, Inc is an organization that provides scholarships to Atlanta-based students to attend FAMU. Teylor was herself a scholarship winner from this organization, and now she is proud to pass along that investment into another young potential professional. NYP presented the donation to Friends of FAM, Inc. during the last Tallahassee Soccer Club home game halftime presentation.

This event was made possible through our sponsors and partners in the community including Trulieve, Capital City Country Club, Abernathy Entertainment, Current Agency, Boler Legal,

Tally Entertainment, Invisual Creative, and Carr, Riggs, & Ingram CPAs and Advisors, along with support and help from Capital City PediCab, Tri-Eagle Sales, Harvest Printing, and Mary's Creations.

The 2022 Golden ACE recipients are:

- Savannah Swindle, Current Agency
- Matthew Peters, Glamor & Glam
- Keshawn Frazier, Kingz & Queenz Fitness
- Kara Michelle Self, Inspired Events by K. Michelle
- Dr. Chinara Garraway, Bliss Dental Spa
- Shishandra Devlin, Boujee with a board
- Christine Souders, Kitchy Wearable Art
- Erika Rojas, Tally Arepas Food Truck
- Michael McDougall, Florida Department of Transportation
- Rachel Prior, Guardian ad Litem 2nd Circuit
- Shelly Joines, Partners in Association Management
- Tori Greer, 211 Big Bend
- Kayla Brooks Meadows, Big Fish Realty
- Josh Walters, Manauss, Shaw & Minacci
- Liliana Gomez Murphy, Florida Afterschool Network/Children's Forum
- Tazara Weilhammer, Sketchley Law Firm
- Brianna Rogers, Bri-Safe
- Brittany Christie, Christie's Sports & Philanthropy Strategy Group
- Alex Kantor, Perfect Plants Nursery
- Teylor Parks, Social Strategists

To learn more about the Golden A.C.E awards, visit <https://www.tallahasseeNYP.com/golden-ace>

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The Tallahassee Network of Young Professionals (NYP) was established in 2003 to help individuals foster an authentic relationship with the community they call home. The organization is dedicated to making Tallahassee a city where young professionals choose to live, work, play and stay. Learn more at www.TallahasseeNYP.com