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LOCAL NON-PROFIT HOSTS 7TH ANNUAL AWARDS GALA RECOGNIZING TALLAHASSEE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Tallahassee, Fla. – The Tallahassee Network of Young Professionals (NYP) announced the winners of the seventh annual Golden A.C.E awards at a ceremony held April 27, 2019 at the GFWC Women’s 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, undiscovered, emerging leaders who are making a difference in our beloved city,” said Kelli Gemmer, president of the Tallahassee Network of Young Professionals. “Their passion and dedication help make Tallahassee a city where young professionals choose to live, work, play, and stay.”

Mayor John Dailey awarded the highest recognition of Top A.C.E. to Britney Smith, public information and communications manager with the Leon County Government. Aside from co-hosting the annual Created Equal Event, she is involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters and Junior Woman’s Club of Midtown. She is an active mentor for Junior Achievement in both Godby and Rickards High School. She is also a professional mentor in the Capital Area Community Action Agency’s Getting Ahead Program and board member of the Innovative Community Engagement (ICE) Foundation.

As the Top A.C.E. winner, Britney selected the Jayda Dionne Parker Scholarship Committee as her charity of choice to receive a \$1,000 donation from NYP, a cause close to her heart. Jayda, a college friend, died from cancer in December 2013 but with Britney's help, her memory lives on. Jayda’s parents established a scholarship fund for which Britney helps raise awareness and funds.

Tallahassee NYP congratulates all the 2019 “Top 20 Under 40” Golden A.C.E. award winners. This event wouldn’t have been possible without Live.Work.Play.Stay. Sponsors Morgan Dental, Trulieve, and Tri-Eagle Sales, in addition to featured sponsors: Edward Jones-Talbott Parten, the Current Agency, Kimley-Horn, Fifth and Thomas, Pyxis Advisors, Merrill Lynch Wright & Associates, Wood & Partners, Inc., and elleBelle Photography, Design & Events.

The Golden A.C.E. winners are:

- Alicia Turner – WCTV
- Catherine Leonard – Tallahassee Hidden Histories
- Rodney Funderburk, Jr. – Complete Automotive Repair and Sales (C.A.R.S.)
- Maxim D Nasab – Apex Architecture
- Audra Fournier – Partners for a Solution, LLC
- Dan Watkins – GloFX

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- Paul M. Aloise Jr. – Office of the State Attorney – 2nd Circuit
- Thomas Vergo – Tallahassee International Airport
- Taylor Harmon – Thomas Howell Ferguson P.A. CPAs
- Russ Browning – Rogers, Gunter, Vaughn Insurance, Inc./HUB Florida
- Wilnick SaintCharles – Citizens Property Insurance Corp.
- Sean Rady – Keller Williams Town & Country
- Jennie Kroeger – Florida State University College of Education
- Elissa Long – Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare
- Eduardo Gonzalez Loumiet – Ruvos
- Emily Lee – Southern Scholarship Foundation
- Jamie Van Pelt – ESPMedia
- Dorsey Spencer Jr. – Florida State University Division of Student Affairs
- Samantha Loebig – Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce

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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