

# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Waukegan Park District Awards Academic Scholarships to Five Local Students**

**Waukegan, Illinois (August 6, 2020)** – The Waukegan Park District is proud to support the academic endeavors of five local students from our community who are pursuing their dreams with a \$1,000 scholarship known as the Waukegan Park District Memorial Endowment Scholarship. The recipients of the 2020 Scholarship are: Nyah Brown, Kathy Colin, Katherine Flesher, Eduardo Flores, and Amari Patterson.

Each recipient was selected after displaying outstanding academic achievements and community service. Scholarship recipients went through a rigorous application process and are required to be a resident of the Waukegan Park District, a student attending a college, university, or trade school and pursuing a field related to parks and recreation.

The recipients of the 2020 Waukegan Park District Memorial Endowment Scholarship will be studying at colleges and university across the country: Nyah Brown at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois; Kathy Colin at University of Richmond in Richmond; Virginia, Katherine Flesher at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts; Eduardo Flores at College of Lake County in Grayslake, Illinois; and Amari Patterson at Howard University in Washington, District of Columbia.

Waukegan Park District Board of Commissioners President Jeremiah Johnson stated, “I’m proud of the achievements shown by this year’s scholarship recipients. Their service to our community and academic excellence shows their grit and determination to improve our city. Congratulations to all the scholarship recipients on this well-deserved honor! Best wishes in school!”

Waukegan Park District Executive Director Jay Lerner stated, “The Waukegan Park District is committed to enabling local students to continue their education on the collegiate level. Congratulations to Nyah, Kathy, Katherine, Eduardo, and Amari! The future of our community is in great hands with these young leaders.”

The Waukegan Park District Memorial Endowment Scholarship Committee stated, “It was not easy to choose from such a great and promising candidate pool. We know the recipients will continue to excel in their future endeavors and make Waukegan proud. Congratulations and good luck with your studies.”

The Waukegan Park District Memorial Endowment Scholarship is funded by private donations and gifts. To contribute to the Waukegan Park District Memorial Endowment Scholarship Fund, contact Ben Richards at [brichards@waukeganparks.org](mailto:brichards@waukeganparks.org).

## **About the Waukegan Park District**

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 50 properties and more than 737 acres of land, including the 18-hole Bonnie Brook and 9-hole Greenshire Golf Courses. Properties are managed to the highest environmental and conservation standards. Facilities operated by the district include the Field House Sports, Fitness and Aquatics Center, the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, the Waukegan's Greg Petry SportsPark, the Waukegan Skate Park, the Waukegan BMX Track, recreational centers, disc golf course, dog exercise area and agility course, outdoor sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, splash pads, and sports courts including basketball, tennis and pickleball. A full range of programs and services are offered year-round for all ages, from infants to seniors as well as special needs populations. Healthy lifestyles, wellness initiatives, and a connection with the outdoors and nature are integrated throughout programs, services, and special events. Cultural events are provided by the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, and the Waukegan History Museum. There is something for everyone! The award-winning District employs 63 full-time and over 230 part-time, seasonal, and temporary employees. The District is a member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD), and Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA). The district maintains national accreditation from the NRPA Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) Distinguished Agency accreditation and Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) accreditation and maintains a Level A Loss Control Program. The District has received Government Finance Officer Association awards for Distinguished Budget Presentation and Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting for eight consecutive years. The district was awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2013 and named a NRPA Gold Medal Finalist in 2012, 2013, and 2019.

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