

News Release – May 11, 2022

2022 Chapel Hill-Carrboro Peacemaking Scholarships Awarded

Congratulations to four outstanding high school seniors who have been selected to receive **Chapel Hill-Carrboro Peacemaking Scholarships** in the amount of \$1,000 each. This year's recipients are **Caroline Chen, William Harrison, and Benjamin McAvoy-Bickford** of East Chapel Hill High School (ECHHS), and **Kendall Lytle** of Middle College High School at Durham Technical College.

Over the past fourteen years, 34 Peacemaking Scholarships have been awarded to graduating seniors in Chapel Hill or Carrboro who are intending to pursue a college education, and who meet certain criteria. The criteria include activism, academic study, and career goals that relate to non-violent conflict resolution, depolarization, global community, social justice, ecology, and/or population. These students received CH-C Peacemaking Scholarships because of their excellent qualifications, record of study and achievement, strong letters of recommendation, and their desire to pursue careers as peacemakers.



Caroline Chen currently serves as co-editor in chief of the ECHHS school newspaper, the ECHO (ECH Observer). In three years on the paper's staff she has been able to bring many social issues to light through her articles about state and local politics, community organizations, public education funding, racial inequities at school, and affordable housing.

Caroline has also been a leader in Model UN activities in the local middle and high schools. She is president of the Refugee Outreach Club, co-president of the National Honor Society at ECHHS, president of the Chapel Hill Youth Council, and youth liaison to the Chapel Hill Planning Commission. She has also volunteered at the Marian Cheek Jackson Center, the Refugee Community Partnership, a sustainable farm in Mebane, and as a campaign worker for local candidates.

Caroline plans to study political science and sociology at Stanford University. She wants our world to be equitable, welcoming and sustainable. She wants to help people increase their understanding of local community issues and accomplish progressive change in affordable housing, public education and sustainable development. Caroline hopes for a career as a political journalist, politician or community organizer.

William Harrison has learned about hunger issues, both locally and globally, through volunteering with the TABLE organization in Chapel Hill. His involvement in the National Achievers Society provided a focus on Black history, and his work with Justice United of Orange County has given him local insights into affordable housing and bail bond reform.



William has pursued his academic interests in politics and history through the ECHHS Social Justice Academy's course offerings in civics, government, and world and American history. He has studied issues surrounding minimum wage legislation, gun control and prison system reform.

He plans to study history and political science at UNC-Greensboro's Lloyd International Honors College and Ashby Residential College which has a focus on social justice.

William wants to be a driver of societal change. He wants to advance social justice policies, increase awareness and teach how to promote change.



Kendall Lytle developed her passion for social justice and ethics early in life. She has expressed this in many ways. She has been a member of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP Youth Council for three years, and is currently the president. The Council's mission is to acknowledge the injustices marginalized groups endure, advocate for said groups, educate the community on what adversities marginalized groups face, as well as celebrate the cultural achievements of marginalized communities. Under Kendall's leadership, the Youth Council held their very first Juneteenth Celebration last year, which was also the year the Town of Carrboro adopted Juneteenth as an official town holiday. Kendall helped plan a "Back to School Bash" for children living in low-income communities of Chapel Hill, and she

acted as a Youth Advisor in the formation of the "Living Legends," which makes it possible for young people to hear from the elder trailblazers in Chapel Hill and Carrboro. Currently, the Youth Council hopes to recruit more young voices to the table in Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

In three years as an active member of the Carrboro Youth Advisory Board Kendall has learned first-hand about local politics and civic life. She also helped put together the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Annual Youth-Led Martin Luther King Jr. Celebrations in the Town of Carrboro.

Through her work in community activism, Kendall has been able to collaborate with many other non-profit organizations in Chapel Hill and Carrboro such as the Hannah Ruth Foundation.

Kendall will be attending Elon University in the fall where she will major in Political Science and double minor in Sociology and Leadership.



Benjamin McAvoy-Bickford constantly seeks a global perspective and knowledge of the rest of the world. He has done this through his involvement with the Quiz Bowl high school knowledge competitions; he has been president of the Quiz Bowl club at ECHHS for two years. He has also served as the Opinions Editor of the ECHO school newspaper; founded the Linguistics Club to expand knowledge of language diversity and language endangerment; and participated for four years in the Model UN Club which promotes respectful debate of differing points of view.

Benjamin's academic studies have included advanced placement courses in European history, world history, and environmental science. He has taken Latin classes every year

beginning in middle school, and he leads two Latin clubs.

Benjamin plans to attend the University of Pennsylvania. His career goal possibilities include serving as a US Foreign Service Officer, being an academic linguist, or working on public policy.

Individuals and organizations who wish to support future peacemaking scholarships may contribute financially at any time. Checks payable to UCCH with Peacemaking Scholarship Fund on the memo line may be sent to

United Church of Chapel Hill
1321 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Donations may also be made online at <http://unitedchurch.org/peacemaking>, and the scholarship application form and bios of previous scholarship recipients can be found there, too.

For more information contact:

Skip Polson
Chairperson
Chapel Hill-Carrboro Peacemaking Scholarship Program
919-889-4404
skippolson@gmail.com