

Bloomington Youth MLK AWARD NOMINATION - 2020

First Name	Karen
Last Name	Schmidt
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City	Bloomington
State	IL
Zip Code	61701
Phone	3098242257
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Is the nominee aware that you are nominating them for this award?	No
First Name	Kaylin
Last Name	Richards
Address 1	202 Packard St
City	Bloomington
State	IL
Zip Code	61701
Phone	309 660 2275
Email Address	ndrcommunications@gmail.com
What school does the student attend?	Bloomington High School
What grade is the student in?	10th grade

1. What are your reasons for nominating this individual?

Kaylin Richards has distinguished herself as a bridge-builder, a peace-maker, and a servant-leader willing to roll up her sleeves for her community. Now 15 years old, Kaylin already has built a significant record of service to others, using her voice to uplift others through her music; sharing her time, creativity and organizational skills to build connections among people and across programs; and expressing empathy and sensitivity to a broad spectrum of our community. Kaylin has truly distinguished herself already, emulating the many values that Dr. King has called us to embrace.

2. How has the nominee demonstrated commitment to improving cooperation and fostering mutual respect among people of different racial, ethnic, religion and other backgrounds

Kaylin's engagement with many non-profit organizations and programs is extensive. These include:

Serving as the Anti Bullying Ambassador for the Chicago Area Project (CAP), a juvenile delinquency prevention program founded in 1934. In this work, she represented CAP in Springfield, Illinois.

Serving as a Junior Camp Leader with the Bloomington-Normal Boys and Girls Club

Engaging with several Project Oz Youth Action Board community service projects, including serving as co-organizer of the annual "Run Drugs Out of Town" campaign and 5K for Project Oz; participant in the annual Prescription Drug Disposal program with Normal Police Department and Project Oz, collecting drugs and needles to keep them away from our youth and out of our water systems; canvassing the community to assess community support for smoking bans near schools and parks; participating in Tobacco Clean Up Day, working in a park to clean up trash and collect cigarette butts and other related products; and participant in Reverse Trick or Treat, canvassing to provide adults with information about the negative impacts of alcohol on the brain of a adolescent and teen.

Volunteering with the West Bloomington Revitalization Project Veggie Oasis through the Westside Revitalization Project to serve families and individuals in need of fresh food.

Volunteering in the clothing closet ministry at Mt. Pisgah Church to sort and distribute clothes and goods to those in need.

Volunteering in the food pantry at Mt Pisgah Church, assisting in sorting and distributing of food to those members of the McLean County community were in need.

Raising money for scholarships provided to

young girls and women in McLean County through the Soroptimist International-BN Chapter

Singing for the Sugar Creek Alzheimer's Special Care Center, Heritage Manor Assisted Living Home and Westminster Village Assisted Living Home.

Serving as choir president with the Mt. Pisgah Sunbeam choir, where she has directed, taught music and performed leadership duties including organizing community outreach programs to provide hope to those in need of spiritual encouragement.

Actively participating in several Not In Our Town events.

Elected as Freshman Class President at Bloomington High School

Serving as Secretary of the Bloomington High School Chorus.

Working with the Media-Cation Foundation, Inc., an organization focused on educating communities, children, and young adults through the creation and distribution of all forms of multimedia. With the help of this foundation, Kaylin released her first unsigned artist single entitled, "I See The Sun." This single reached over 1,000 SoundScan downloads in one week, with all proceeds used to fund programs that support youth-focused entertainment education and training.

3. How has nominee's efforts addressed discrimination, prejudice and the effects of past discrimination?

Kaylin is co-founder and President of the Black Student Union (BSU) at Bloomington High School. As President of the BSU, Kaylin set forth a goal to coordinate activities that strengthen cultural and political awareness, and to launch and sustain a student organization that is recognized and respected for addressing issues that African American students, as well as the entire student body, face. BSU is dedicated to promoting cultural awareness and student leadership in high school and throughout the community. Under Kaylin's leadership this year, the BSU debuted the "Black History Museum," including with tours, live performances and artifacts. This was a first for Bloomington High School. The response from the student body, faculty and staff school was so well received and reached over 300 individuals. Based on this initial success, next year the BSU will open the museum over a three day period to allow for more visitors.

Kaylin's work with the WBRP Veggie Oasis reflects her deep understanding of the challenges that some in our community face. The Veggie Oasis serves mainly the westside of Bloomington, a diverse part of our community often faced with economic challenges. In her work with the Veggie Oasis, Kaylin encourages people to take what they and their families need to eat. She is sensitive to the lack of healthy and fresh food in this part of Bloomington; her service in volunteering with the Veggie Oasis reflects her strong commitment to being part of the solution to lifting up our community and sharing our resources.

In 2018, Kaylin volunteered three hours every week for a full year as a voter's right advocate. In this work, she encouraged eligible voters to utilize their right to vote and educated young voters across McLean county about the importance of their vote, and why their vote matters in every election. She also encouraged youth to participate in local civic

engagement activities.

Kaylin is a proud member of the NAACP, recognizing this organization's commitment to social justice and equality for all people. At the recent 100th year anniversary of our local chapter, Kaylin served as a featured speaker and and performed vocally.

4. What recognition has the nominee received for his/her service to others?

In 2016, Kaylin was awarded the YICU – For A Better Tomorrow Service Award. This award honors young leaders who make a positive impact on others' lives and their community through everyday actions in their neighborhoods, schools, social service agencies or through voluntary service to others both locally and globally.

In 2018, Kaylin competed in the NAACP ACT-SO competition and won the gold medal. She competed nationally in San Antonio, Texas, representing Bloomington in the vocal contemporary category.

Kaylin's leadership abilities have been recognized by her peers and was elected Freshman Class President at Bloomington High School.

I agree that the information provided on this nomination form is true and accurate. I also agree that if any information provided is not true the nomination will be void.

Yes
