

Lee's Summit woman hosts first scholarship program for low-income high school seniors

BY **TORIANO PORTER**

tporter@lsjournal.com July 31, 2015

Jessica McClellan was in Indianapolis this week, traveling as part of her occupation as an IT consultant to those in health care.

McClellan left the Kansas City area last weekend knowing just a couple of days before she had helped four soon-to-be college students start off their collegiate careers on the right path.

The Lee's Summit woman, founder and president of non-profit Giving Hope and Help, hosted the organization's first Education is Your Passport scholarship program July 23 at the Kauffman Foundation Conference Center in Kansas City.

"It was awesome," McClellan said. "I was very pleased with everything. It was a great night."

The four recipients received new laptop computers with college planning software and a bed-in-a bag set for their dormitory.

Mentoring and educational and volunteer opportunities will also be provided to the students throughout their college career via the Giving Hope & Help organization.

"They were all very grateful," McClellan said.

The students – Mayela Franco, Breanna Stevenson-Patton, Aleathea Williams and Martae Marshall – were selected based on their household income; grade point average; community involvement; letter of recommendation; essay regarding a need or needs in their community; and how they plan to meet those needs to make a difference while in college and beyond.

Williams, a recent graduate of Cristo Rey High School in Kansas City, said receiving the scholarship meant "so much to me because I've worked so hard educationally."

"It touched me because we live in a world where everyone works for themselves and their own success, and for someone else to do something for me just because they can and have a hand in my success shows work through God," Williams said.

Williams will attend the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She plans to give back by helping teenagers find guidance through their high school years with help to formulate plans for success, getting involved within the community, and with positive outlets and role models.

"I want all teenagers to be able to have hope no matter the circumstance and take actions to make their dreams come true," she said.

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Excited for ther Education Is Your Passport Program! The deserving scholars will receive mentoring throughout their college careers. Awarding them the bed sets, laptops, software and mentoring will truly make a difference for them and their families.

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Vanessa Morrison · Dallas, Texas

Congratulations on this program! You are making a difference!

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Jessica Mccallop-Mcclellan · Baker University

Thank you Vanessa Morrison!

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From left to right: Mayela Franco, Breanna Stevenson-Patton, Aleathea Williams, Jessica McClellan, founder and president of Lee's Summit-based Giving Hope and Help, and Martae Marshall gather at the organization's first Education is Your Passport scholarship program July 23 in Kansas City. **ALFREDO HUGHEY FREDOFOTO — Photo courtesy of fredofoto**



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