

Winner of the 2005 Young Women in Public Affairs Award

The Zonta International District 11 winner of the 2005 Young Women in Public Affairs Award (YWPA) is Courtney Harris of the Highlands County Club. Courtney was selected over fifteen other excellent candidates submitted by clubs within our district in recognition of her leadership in public policy, government and volunteer organizations.



Courtney, a recent graduate of Sebring High School in Sebring, Florida, is the ideal “young women in public affairs”. She is well-rounded, motivated, dedicated, and most certainly ambitious. Her strong leadership skills were exhibited through her contributions to Mu Alpha Theta (national math club), Student Government, National Honor Society, and Inner Club Council. Somehow she also found time to participate in her high school’s tennis, volleyball and basketball teams, all while excelling in her studies.

Her academic and athletic achievements are indeed staggering and she has clearly demonstrated her commitment to school activities. What is most impressive, however, is Courtney’s involvement in her community. She has worked on numerous projects for Habitat for Humanity, the United Way, and Big Brother, Big Sisters. For the past three years, she has been a member of the United Way Community Investment Team that is responsible for reviewing and evaluating partner agencies’ programs, management and budget in order to make funding recommendations. She has also worked with the Highlands County School Board, serving on their Student Advisory Committee.

She has clearly taken on adult roles with large responsibility and far reaching impact on the service community. It is refreshing to see that her interests extend well beyond her own personal life and comfort zone. It is clear she has a good understanding of the challenges that face our gender and concrete ideas on how to address them. Again, she manages to exhibit a maturity beyond her years. With all these accomplishments, it comes as no surprise that she plans on becoming a doctor one day.

As the District 11 winner, Courtney will be presented with a check for \$500 at this year’s District Conference in Nassau, Bahamas, September 23 and 24. We hope you have the opportunity to meet her in person and be as impressed as our YWPA Selection Committee.

Below is a list of the other Outstanding Young Women in Public Affairs who participated in this year’s competition.

Jessie Mann	Dothan, AL
Mohsinah Usamani	Memphis, TN
Rebecca Davis	Tallahassee, FL
Allison Gauche	Columbia, SC
Jessica Frey	Jacksonville, FL
Lauren Crumpton	Birmingham, AL
Rachel Eldridge	Pascagoula, MS
Samuel Edouard	Boca Raton, FL
Glenn Love	Hilton Head, SC
Sofia Diaz	Charleston, SC
Melissa Perez	Tampa, FL
Kelley Greenman	Marathon, FL
Kimberly Copley	Upper Pinellas County, FL
Roxanne Bras	Melbourne, FL
Sherrie Khandanga	Montgomery, AL