

**2008 GAN – Smith College Summer Science & Engineering Program
Scholarship Recipient: TaCora Holmes**

(Newark, NJ) TaCora Holmes, an 8th grader at TEAM Academy in Newark, New Jersey returned August 1, 2008 from the month-long Smith College Summer Science & Engineering Program in Northampton, MA where she attended as the 2008 Girls Action Network ("GAN") Summer Program Scholarship Recipient. The goal of the GAN - Smith summer program is to provide GAN students with a unique opportunity to participate in innovative curricula in astronomy, biology, biochemistry, chemistry, computer science, engineering, physics and a young women's health education initiative. The experience also promotes global cultural learning and appreciation due to the number of student participants that come from all over the world to participate in the program.

Smith College is one of the top-rated liberal arts colleges in the U.S. and the nation's largest college dedicated solely to the education of women. To be considered for the scholarship, TaCora had to demonstrate well-roundedness as a committed student, a community service leader and a willingness to serve as a GAN ambassador both during the summer program and upon her return. TaCora exceeded these requirements by demonstrating her dedication to her schoolwork: She won a full-scholarship to attend high school at Chapel Hill-Chauncy Hall School, a boarding school in Waltham, Massachusetts. Furthermore, she takes time to reach out within her community through volunteer efforts within her church and various school organizations.

As a GAN ambassador, TaCora has prepared a presentation to be used in her absence while she is away at school to inspire young girls to follow in her footsteps by applying to the Smith scholarship. When asked what does she plan to do in the future, TaCora shared that "I was inspired by my summer at Smith to pursue my avid interest in Food Science and I plan to pursue a career in this field."

GAN Overview: Girls Action Network, Inc. ("GAN") is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with the vision to promote a social transformation designed to educate, empower, and promote girls in grades 7-12. Progressively, GAN allows a girl to shatter her stereotypes, explore her vocational opportunities and guide her own direction toward success. GAN seeks to accomplish these goals through the use of technology, career awareness conferences, and networking with positive role models. For more information, visit www.girlsactionnetwork.org.

