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GIRLS ACTION NETWORK®
ANNOUNCES THE 2011 GAN – SMITH COLLEGE SUMMER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

New York, NY – Cierra Legrand, an 8th grader at TEAM Academy in Newark, New Jersey has been selected by Girls Action Network ("GAN") to attend the month-long Smith College Summer Science & Engineering Program in Northampton, MA where she will attend as the 2011 Girls Action Network Summer Program Scholarship Recipient. This July, Cierra will receive the 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 program also promotes global cultural learning and appreciation due to the number of student participants who come from all over the world.

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, Cierra had to demonstrate a significant financial need, 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. Cierra exceeded these requirements especially by demonstrating her exceptional dedication to her schoolwork, including participating on her school's math team. Cierra is eagerly looking forward to attending the Smith program, and especially being able to participate in the Smith course called *The Truth In Advertising: A Chemical Analysis of the Products We Buy* because "as a young consumer, I would like to understand what's really in what we buy. Labels don't really give us enough information to make wise decisions. In a world of companies and products, advertisements draw the consumers in. It gives companies that advertise an advantage over their competitors that don't. This course would definitely make me a more educated consumer," Cierra states.

The cost to attend the Smith College Summer Science & Engineering Program is \$4850.00. The funding for Cierra's summer experience was made possible by Girls Action Network, Inc. and the generous support of the Smith College's Passport Scholars Foundation.

GAN is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that delivers programs and services to educate and empower young women in grades 7-12, with special emphasis on those from underserved communities. At the core of **GAN's** mission is the realization that greater steps needed to be taken to increase the number of: (i) students studying science, technology, engineering and mathematics ("targeted fields"); (ii) female students choosing occupations in these targeted fields; and (iii) workforce-ready graduates for the 21st century labor market who reflect a diversity of aptitudes and cultural perspectives, and who possess a personal foundation to contribute in a global society.

Please visit www.girlsactionnetwork.org.