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GIRLS ACTION NETWORK SALUTES SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

High School Students, Rolande Williams and Tangiah Royster of Newark, New Jersey Receive Girls Action Network Scholarships to Attend the Mount Holyoke Summer Math and SEARCH Programs in Hadley, MA.

New York, NY – **August 15, 2007, Rolande William and Tangiah Royster**, both residents of **Newark, New Jersey** returned from Hadley, Massachusetts having completed their respective summer enrichment programs at Mount Holyoke women's college. During their respective summer experiences, Rolande and Tangiah had unique opportunities to participate in innovative curricula in mathematics. Their programs also worked to strengthen their resolve in mathematical thinking, communications skills, problem solving strategies and computer skills.

The journey began for the young women on June 21, 2007, when they were notified they were each to be awarded the scholarship. **Rolande Williams, a Newark, New Jersey** resident who finished her 8th grade year at **Sojourner Truth Middle School in East Orange, New Jersey**, was officially awarded a \$4,500 scholarship sponsored by **Girls Action Network ("GAN")**, with a generous donation from Mount Holyoke, to attend the one-month Mount Holyoke Summer Math Program in Hadley, MA. GAN recently caught-up with Rolande and her mother, Marlin Gibson, as they finish unpacking Rolande from Mount Holyoke and prepare Rolande for her two-week late August orientation program at a Newark Charter School. During the conversation, GAN learned that the Mt. Holyoke-GAN experience accomplished its mission to help prepare Rolande for a continued path of educational and career success. Ms. Williams commented on Rolande's summer experience stating that **"Rolande would call me regularly, mostly after attending an off-site activity. She would tell me about the different experiences and how she was unfamiliar with them. However, I was able to explain to her that the program was designed to expose her to experiences at all levels and that as she continues to mature, they will become more significant in her life. I am very grateful that Rolande [had] this opportunity because she has been accepted to the Newark Collegiate Academy, an advanced schooling system designed for promising young students. As part of her acceptance requirements, Rolande will start school early, attending a 2-week on-site preparatory program designed to focus the students on the added rigors of the Academy. By her attending the Mount Holyoke Summer Math program, my daughter is more than ready to handle the next step in her blooming high school endeavors."**

Tangiah Royster, a Newark, New Jersey resident who finished her 11th grade year at **Marylawn of the Oranges in South Orange, New Jersey**, was also officially awarded a

\$4,500 scholarship sponsored by **Girls Action Network (“GAN”)**, with a generous donation from Mount Holyoke, to attend the one-month Mount Holyoke Summer SEARCH Program for college bound high school students in Hadley, MA. When asked how her summer SEARCH experience impacted her life, Miss Royster shared that **“The Mount Holyoke experience was an exciting experience because it gave me an opportunity to visit places I had not been before, like Boston and Northampton.”** She further commented that **“I got the chance to network with other students from all over the United States. In addition to focusing on my [personal] growth as a math student, I was able to help others develop their talent in the same subject.”**

In 2007, the **GAN – Mt. Holyoke College** partnership was established to provide a fully paid scholarship(s) for a qualified **GAN** participant(s) to attend Mt. Holyoke College's one month mathematics and college-prep program held on the Mount Holyoke campus in Hadley, Massachusetts. Mount Holyoke is one of the top-rated liberal arts colleges in the U.S. and one of the nation's leading colleges dedicated solely to the education of women.

GAN is a grassroots nonprofit organization focused on social transformation to educate and empower young women in grades 7-12, with special emphasis on those from underserved communities. Now providing programming and services in New Jersey, the girls hail from mainly New Jersey schools. At the core of **GAN's** mission, the realization is that girls commonly are directed towards traditional careers, and away from, for example, technology and the sciences. Reaching beyond single mentoring, **GAN** strives to create a myriad of innovative programs and experiences, some in partnership with other nonprofits and organizations, designed to show girls their expansive career and educational choices. “At a time when, research consistently shows that education for girls is one of the most effective – if not the most effective investment a nation can make to improve the health and prosperity of present and future generations”, states Elisa M. T. Basnight, the Founder and President, “GAN illustrates how a relatively small organization can make a difference.” The scholarship program is led by the generous efforts of chairwoman, **Dalila Springer**, with contributions from board members, **Charmaine Sibanda** and **Elisa M.T. Basnight** and **MaryAnn Jackson**.

Please visit www.girlsactionnetwork.org.