

Stockton Student Sparkle Prevard Chosen for Campus Compact's National Civic Fellowship

For Immediate Release; with Prevard photo attached

Thursday, March 31, 2016

Contact: Maryjane Briant
News and Media Relations Director
Galloway Township, NJ 08205
Maryjane.Briant@stockton.edu
(609) 652-4593
www.stockton.edu/media

Galloway, NJ - Sparkle Prevard of Atlantic City, N.J., a sophomore at Stockton University, has been chosen by Campus Compact, a national coalition of nearly 1,100 colleges and universities dedicated to campus-based civic engagement, to receive the national 2016 Newman Civic Fellows Award.

Prevard will be among 218 student leaders representing Campus Compact member colleges and universities from 36 states, Washington, D.C. and Mexico. Campus Compact helps colleges develop students' citizenship skills and forge effective community partnerships, with support for faculty and staff community-based teaching and scholarship.

"Since I can remember, I have been dedicated to community activism and youth empowerment," Prevard said. "Empowerment is an essential key to the development of the youth voice, which is often ignored. That is why I am dedicated and focused on enabling youths to build self-confidence and self-efficacy to become future leaders. For example, in 2014 I was involved in developing a Youth Empowerment Counsel in Atlantic City. The goal of this project was to enable the youth of my community to engage with local politics."

She now works at the Stockton University Office of Service-Learning as an activist-in-residence on projects such as tutoring on campus and in the after-school homework completion program at an Atlantic City public housing facility.

"I have learned valuable skills in this role, among them how to be a supportive peer mentor and leader and how to create meaningful projects that have a lasting impact on the community," Prevard said. "My goal is to educate, engage, and empower young people, as I am a product of these kinds of meaningful programs and of people who truly care."

Prevard was nominated by Stockton University President Harvey Kesselman, who noted that her activism includes Students Helping Students, a student mentorship program that pairs Stockton University and Atlantic City High School students; the Stanley Holmes Housing Project

homework/tutoring program; the Petey Green Initiative, which focuses on tutoring prisoners to prepare for their GEDs; and the Atlantic City Free Public Library workshops that connect local Atlantic City students interested in science and technology with Stockton University students in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) courses and majors.

Prevard, a graduate of the Stockton Champions of Youth program at the Boys & Girls Club of Atlantic City, was chosen as the 2014 Boys & Girls Club State Youth of the Year. She went on to become Northeast Regional winner and met President Obama at the White House.

This award honors the late Frank Newman, one of Campus Compact's founders and a tireless advocate for the civic engagement of higher education.

"We are fortunate to have the opportunity to celebrate such an extraordinary group of students," said Campus Compact president Andrew Seligsohn. "We are seeing a resurgence in student interest in acting to create lasting social change, and this year's Newman Civic Fellows exemplify that commitment."

Campus Compact 2016 Newman Civic Fellows will represent their higher education institution in a national group of student leaders. These students will receive an award certificate and an invitation to join the Newman Civic Fellows online network. They will also be featured prominently on the Campus Compact national website and, in many cases, invited to participate in state-specific activities.

For more information about the Newman Civic Fellows, visit [Campus Compact](#).

For more information about Stockton University, visit [Stockton.edu](#).

#

Caption:

Sparkle Prevard

Photo credit:

Susan Allen/Stockton University