

The Army War College recognizes 18 essay winners during Black History Month observance

By Robert Martin, USAWC PAO 22 February 2022



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Students from 6 local Middle Schools stand with USAWC Commandant Maj. Gen. David Hill (back row middle) and USAWC Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Flom to Hill's right.

Each February during Black History Month, the Army War College recognizes students from local area middle schools for their writing skills as part of its annual Black History Month Observance.

The Army War College observed Black History Month, Feb. 18 in Bliss Hall. The observance included 3 speakers, two War College students, Col. Tom Noble and Lt. Col. Anastasia McKay and Earth-Shameenah Holman, a Nurse Practitioner and the recognition of 18 students from six local area middle schools for their writing skills as part of its Black History Month Observance.

"I am real excited that i get to help recognize a special set of Carlisle area middle school students," said Maj. Gen. David Hill the Army War College Commandant. "who wrote inspirational essays linking African American health and wellness and fitness," he said.

Students wrote essays focusing on the contributions and history of African Americans such as sickle cell pioneer Marilyn Hughes Gaston as they considered this year's theme "Black Health & Wellness"

Col. Noble talked about own experience with African American health and well-being inequities, along with historical examples, the rise in suicides in black youth and steps in seeking behavioral health to curb the rise.

Lt. Col. McKay discussed Diabetes. Why is it more common in African Americans, some preventable measures and environmental factors that can cause diabetes.

Mrs. Holman will touch on African American trailblazers in healthcare, the representation of African Americans in healthcare and the importance of access to care.

Of the 18 students recognized, two were two-time winners, both from Saint Patrick School - Josephine Birbeck and Harold Cameron.

Schools represented in this year's essay contest were:

Carlisle Area School District

Lamberton Middle School – Principal, Keith Colestock

6th Grade - Duncan Lively

8th Grade - Lillian Austin

8th Grade - Sarah Tate

Cumberland Valley School District

Eagle View Middle School – Principal, John Gallagher

7th Grade – Druthi Naveen

8th Grade – Juliana Graziano

8th Grade – Elijah Schultz

Mountain View Middle School – Principal, Jeff Hosenfeld

8th Grade - Adeena Thomas

8th Grade - Claudia Lal

8th Grade - Deeksha Rajesh

Mechanicsburg Area School District

Mechanicsburg Middle School – Principal, Joel Yohn

6th Grade - Katelyn Lugone

7th Grade - Helena Krawchuk

8th Grade - Ryma Saha

Big Spring School District

Big Spring Middle School – Principal, Clarissa Nace

6th Grade - Levi Beck

7th Grade - Zoey Wiser

8th Grade - Brooklyn Slusser

Private Schools

Saint Patrick School – Principal, Antoinette Oliverio

6th Grade - Shayne Hoyman

7th Grade - Josephine Birbeck: 2nd year winner

8th Grade - Harold Cameron: 2nd year winner