

September 28, 2017

**PRESS ADVISORY - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Two Students Selected for Prestigious Young Scholars Program**  
*Only Recipients in the Region to Receive Academic Advising and Potential Support up to \$40,000 a year for programs and college*

WASHINGTON, DC (September 28, 2017) – Mikaela Johnson and Charles Minnis, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at Howard University Middle School of Mathematics and Science (MS<sup>2</sup>), have been selected as participants in the [Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Young Scholars Program](#). The students are the only recipients in the area and among 65 selected nationwide.

Mikaela Johnson aspires to be a surgeon, while Charles Minnis plans to focus on medical research in the hopes of finding a cure for multiple sclerosis, from which a close family suffers. Johnson and Minnis are known as leaders among their peers and have been classmates at MS<sup>2</sup> since 6<sup>th</sup> grade. When asked how they felt about being selected, they responded: “Shocked! This gives us more choices for high school and special programs. We don’t have to worry about money.” The students’ families had similar reactions. Said Corinne Crick, Michaela’s mother, “This is such a blessing!” Charles Minnis’ mother—Ms. Kimberly Kemp and his extended family summed it up this way: “There are times when something so special happens and you don’t know what to say! This is one of them!”

Each Young Scholar receives a unique combination of opportunities such as, guidance in selecting and, if necessary, applying to a high school; funding for academic and enrichment programs in the summer and during the school year; internship and study abroad opportunities; resources for career exploration and mentorship; specialized support in music, art, science, math and other subjects; and educational resources including books and technology.

“Mikaela and Charles have all of the qualities a Young Scholar must possess: high academic ability and achievement, strong leadership skills, determination and perseverance in the face of challenges. They exemplify the MS<sup>2</sup> way!” said Kathryn Procope, Head of School of MS<sup>2</sup>. “We are thrilled and honored two of our students have been selected for the highly competitive program.”

**About Howard University Middle School of Mathematics and Science (MS)<sup>2</sup>**

Our mission is to provide a sound foundation in all academic subjects with a focus on mathematics and science. MS<sup>2</sup> offers advanced courses in mathematics and science; a rigorous curriculum in English and Social Studies; 2-1 laptop support and access to web-based mobile applications; and faculty with degrees in the subjects they teach. We are a pipeline to Howard University and the STEM professions. For more information, call (202) 427-7383, or visit [www.hu-ms2.org](http://www.hu-ms2.org).

**About Howard University**

Founded in 1867, Howard University is a private, research university that is comprised of 13 schools and colleges. Students pursue studies in more than 120 areas leading to undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees. The University operates has produced four Rhodes Scholars, nine Truman Scholars, two Marshall Scholars, one Schwarzman Scholar, over 60 Fulbright Scholars and 22 Pickering Fellows. Howard also produces more on-campus African-American Ph.D. recipients than

any other university in the United States. For more information on Howard University, please visit [www.howard.edu](http://www.howard.edu).