

SINA Recognizes Community Leaders and Students



Clockwise Starting from top left corner: Mactar Mohammatt, Amyah Harris, Khalil K. Howe, Gabriella Adriana Bastos-Chaves, Paola P. Alvarado-Dominguez, Edward M. Ramirez-Cahuana, Sirak Hadgu, CREC Impact Academy, Delene Falcon, Elizabeth Giannetta-Ramos, Eric Galm, Abedin Abedini, and Tiana Brathwaite.

Four community leaders were recognized recently with three Neighborhood Service Awards and an Institutional Award from SINA, the Southside Institution Neighborhood Alliance, which is a partnership between Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, Hartford Hospital, and Trinity College. SINA also awarded college scholarships to nine Hartford students who demonstrated unusual commitment and promise.

Neighborhood Service Award recipients were CREC Impact Academy, Elizabeth Giannetta-Ramos, and Delene Falcon. Giannetta-Ramos, a founder of Compass Youth Collaborative and its current Director of Partnerships, was honored for her decades-long commitment to Hartford youth. Falcon was recognized for her ongoing contributions to SINA’s neighborhood, helping with clean-ups, safety events and the creation of a playground. CREC Impact Academy’s award recognized its mission of doing high school differently, with a personalized, hands-on approach for kids who don’t thrive in traditional schools.

Eric Galm of Trinity College won SINA’s Institutional Award, now known as the Stephen Balcanoff Award to honor the long-term SINA board member who retired after more than 40 years at Connecticut Children’s. Galm is Associate Professor of Music and Ethnomusicology, Chair of the Department of Music, Co-Director of the Center for Caribbean Studies, and founder of SambaFest. His programs have directly influenced 60,000 people.

The Ivan Backer Scholarship recipients graduated from Bulkeley High School this year. They are Abedin Abedini, an honor roll student and captain of the soccer and volleyball teams, Tiana Brathwaite, co-president of the National Honor Society, flautist and community activist, and Mactar Mohammatt, who works full time to support himself while making honor roll and playing varsity soccer.

Student Support Scholarship winners from Capital Community College were Amyah Harris, a talented writer, Edward M. Ramirez-Cahuana, a Dean’s List student, Gabriella Adriana Bastos-Chaves, studying to become an obstetrician, Khalil K. Howe, the first in his family to attend college, and Paola P. Alvarado-Dominguez, a Dean’s List student.

The Kelly Styles STEM Scholarship was developed by Connecticut Children’s Information Solutions team to honor their retired colleague. Sirak Hadgu, the scholarship winner, graduated from Bulkeley. While there he played varsity soccer, was a member of the National Honor Society, and participated in a youth training program through Leadership Greater Hartford.

Award and scholarship winners are normally recognized at SINA’s annual REACH event, but with the pandemic this year, celebration of their achievements is now virtual. More information about all winners is available on SINA’s website, www.sinainc.org.