

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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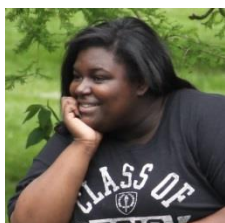


Local Foster Youth Attending Michelle Obama's 'Beating the Odds' Event at White House on July 19

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Tyra Collins and Leanna Sego, two local foster youth, are joining 127 other college-bound youth from across the country at the White House to showcase their accomplishments and inspire other students to pursue a college degree. Collins and Sego will hear advice from the First Lady as well as major White House and Department of Education representatives, staff from organizations like Google and influencers like Tyler Oakley.

Collins and Sego were invited to the White House in recognition of the great level of adversity they have overcome during pursuit of their education. The Beating the Odds campaign, which is part of [the First Lady's Reach Higher initiative](#), aims to share tools and strategies for students to successfully transition into college.

Collins and Sego participate in the [Cornerstones of Care Y.E.S. \(Youth Educational Success\) Program](#). It is our goal to address the common barriers foster youth experience after choosing to attend college, such as lack of financial resources, lack of emotional support from caring adults and lack of social opportunity.



Tyra Collins has been in foster care for two years and is seeking an Applied Science Chef Apprenticeship degree. She aspires to work in the restaurant industry. Tyra has worked very hard to be a 2016 high school graduate. She attributes her success to resilience and the support from the Cornerstones of Care Y.E.S. Program, which she says “changed her life for the better.”



Leanna Sego has been in foster care for three years. Since this time, she has worked hard to accomplish a credit recovery program to be a 2016 high school graduate. She aspires to receive her certification in Cosmetology so she can help people gain self-confidence and worth. Leanna is a very active in the Cornerstones of Care Y.E.S. program.

**Interview opportunities outlined below*

Interview Opportunities

Who: Tyra Collins, Leanna Sego and Brandy Bamberger will be available for interviews. Brandy Bamberger, Y.E.S. program specialist, chauffeured Collins and Sego to Washington D.C.

When: Thursday, July 21, 2016 between 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Please confirm time in advance with media contact.** Additional interview times may be coordinated.

Where: Cornerstones of Care, 300 East 36th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111

About Cornerstones of Care

Cornerstones of Care is a family of human service organizations dedicated to strengthening children, families and the communities. We positively impact the health and well-being of communities by delivering prevention, treatment and support services at our Gillis, Ozanam, Marillac and Spofford campuses. Learn more about our collective impact at cornerstonesofcare.org.

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