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W.S. McIntosh Memorial Leadership Award

University of Dayton

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High-school senior Shadayah Lawrence is this year’s recipient of the W.S. McIntosh Memorial Leadership Award which includes a full, four-year scholarship to the University of Dayton and a four-year paid internship with the city of Dayton.

Lawrence is currently a senior at Ponitz High School in Dayton and will graduate in June. Her father, David Lawrence, is a 1998 University of Dayton graduate.

“Shadayah exhibited the passion for community service, excellence in her academics, and the confidence and maturity to lead both on campus and in City Hall,” said C. LaShea Smith, a member of the selection committee. “I look forward to mentoring this exceptional young lady over the next four years as the coordinator for the internship portion of this prestigious award.”

The McIntosh scholarship has been presented to a graduating African-American high school student in Montgomery County for nearly 30 years. The scholarship-internship combination supports the education of local students and helps them develop professional experience in public service. Recipients must be committed to the ideals of social justice and demonstrate potential for community leadership.

Current McIntosh Scholars are first-year political science major Shaylynn Hespeth, sophomore Louisa Okwudibonye in discover sciences, junior operations and supply management major Reginald Henderson, and senior civil engineering major Alexis Wingfield.

Smith, who was the first McIntosh scholar, is now director of finance for the city of Dayton.
“As the first recipient of the award who has had the privilege of serving the city for over 26 years, I am honored to help another scholar make their mark in our community,” Smith said.

As part of the award, students gain experience through a four-year paid internship with the city of Dayton. The internship is a mandatory component of the award and begins the summer before the student's first year at the University. The money earned through the internship is not part of the scholarship award and can be used for books, supplies, transportation and personal expenses.

The award honors W.S. McIntosh, a civil rights leader in Dayton in the 1960s. McIntosh led one of the first major civil rights protests in Dayton, organized community groups and was executive director of the Dayton chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality. He was shot and killed while trying to prevent a robbery at a jewelry store in downtown Dayton on March 4, 1974.

For information on the McIntosh Scholarship, contact Kathleen Henderson at khenderson1@udayton.edu or 937-229-3774.