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April 29, 2015
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**11 METRO NASHVILLE 8th GRADERS COMPLETE
COMPETITIVE GATEWAY TO BUSINESS FELLOWSHIP;
DISCOVER PATHS TO CAREER**

***\$11,000 in college scholarship money provided to Gateway Fellows during
program designed to cultivate future generation of
middle Tennessee business leaders***

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – LocalShares, Inc. along with the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce and the Vanderbilt University Owen Graduate School of Management awarded 11 Metro 8th graders with Gateway to Business Fellowship awards – for participating in the competitive career acceleration program for students interested in charting an educational path toward a career. Corrections Corporation of America and St. Thomas Health served as “Day Sponsors” for the program. More than 100 aspiring students from across Davidson County competed for the fellowship. The following students comprise the first class of Gateway to Business Fellows:

<u>Student</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
• Adams Diomande	Croft Middle Design Center	St. Thomas Health
• Troyce Griffin	Jere Baxter Middle School	CCA
• Emily Nidiffer	H.G. Hill Middle School	Vanderbilt University
• Chibuzor Okolocha	Rose Park Math and Science Magnet	DVL/Seigenthaler
• Tony Potchernikov	Bellevue Middle School	St. Thomas Health
• Gillian Sjoblom	Meigs Middle Magnet	HCA
• Logan Stecker	West End Middle School	Nash. Chamber of Commerce
• Nicholas Taylor	Rose Park Math and Science Magnet	Nashville CVC
• Eduardo Villanueva	Head Middle Magnet	XMi Holdings
• Lekya Wilcox	Thurgood Marshall Middle School	Brookdale Senior Living
• Hina York	J.T. Moore Middle School	Decker Wealth Management

As Gateway to Business fellow, each student participated in high impact educational sessions, and received a \$1,000 financial gift to be used for higher education upon completion of the program. Students will also interact directly with the company that is sponsoring him or her.

“This talented group of students experienced the workings of a spectrum of Nashville businesses, were mentored by students from Owen Graduate School of Management and were provided with career and personal coaching at the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce,” said Michael Schulz, director of marketing for LocalShares. “We are impressed with these students and their determination to find the

right future path. And we are very grateful to the sponsors who made this transformative opportunity possible for these ambitious 8th graders.”

Sessions included:

- Nashville Entrepreneur Center, to learn what starting a business of your own requires
- Vanderbilt Owen Graduate School of Management, to begin to identify career paths
- Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, to learn the Nashville business community and Nashville Academy pairing
- A publicly traded company or a sponsoring organization, to learn about a specific industry like sports, management, healthcare or others
- LocalShares, to learn about the public markets and how they function
- Nashville Predators organization, to learn about sports business and its function in the economy
- Nashville Convention and Visitors Corporation, to hear regional effects from tourism/hospitality
- Bill Carey, to hear about Nashville Business history

Students also spent time with the company that sponsored them to learn experience that environment. Sponsorship includes:

- Vanderbilt Owen School of Management
- Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce

Program sponsors:

- St. Thomas Health – Day sponsor
- Corrections Corporation of America – Day Sponsor
- Healthcare Corporation of America
- Brookdale Senior Living
- Nashville Convention and Visitors Corporation
- The Nashville Entrepreneur Center
- XMi Holdings
- Decker Wealth Management
- Grand Avenue
- Nashville Predators
- Brassfield & Gorrie

For information about the program, visit www.localshares.com.
