



Department of Justice



Office of Justice Programs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2021

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HONORS LOUISIANA STUDENT WITH TOMORROW'S LEADERS AWARD

WASHINGTON – The Justice Department’s Office for Victims of Crime, a component of the Office of Justice Programs, presented Sachiri Henderson with the Tomorrow’s Leaders Award. This award honors and highlights youth up to 24 years old who have dedicated their efforts to supporting victims of crime.

“With exceptional determination and wisdom, Sachiri Henderson responded with courage and resilience to the trauma of being bullied, demonstrating through action her empathy for others who have shared her experience,” said OJP Acting Assistant Attorney General Maureen A. Henneberg. “She is an extraordinary young woman who has more than shown why she is one of tomorrow’s leaders.”

At age eight, Sachiri Henderson, now a tenth grader, founded BEAST (Bullying Ends Against Students Today) in response to being bullied. The club has attracted over 80 members and uses its voice to create change through kindness and inclusivity through social media platforms. Modeled on PACER’s National Bullying Prevention Center efforts, Ms. Henderson also spearheaded the first Unity Day Walk at her school when she was in fourth grade. She has organized a number of anti-bullying events, led afterschool meetings where students could voluntarily disclose and process experiences, and brought in community presenters to share resources and empower attendees.

In her role as Miss Louisiana Port City’s Outstanding Teen, Ms. Henderson has led fundraisers for students to receive counseling and helped purchase supplies for children exposed to abuse and traumatic experiences. She was awarded the United for Inclusion Unity Award and the Gold Level President’s Volunteer Service Award in 2019 and recognized as Stand Out Student of the Month in 2018 by her local news station.

“We know that the consequences of bullying can be devastating, so it is inspiring to hear of this remarkable young woman’s journey from victim to advocate,” said OVC Acting Director Katherine Darke Schmitt. “We are in awe of Ms. Henderson’s strength and of all that she has done for so many others.”

Every April, OVC leads communities across the country in observing National Crime Victims’ Rights Week. President Reagan proclaimed the first Victims’ Rights Week in 1981, calling for greater sensitivity to the rights and needs of victims. The 40th anniversary of NCVRW took place this year, April 18-24, and featured the theme, “Support Victims. Build Trust. Engage Communities,” which emphasizes the importance of leveraging community support to victims.

The Office of Justice Programs provides federal leadership, grants, training, technical assistance and other resources to improve the nation's capacity to prevent and reduce crime, advance racial equity in the administration of justice, assist victims and enhance the rule of law. More information about OJP and its components can be found at www.ojp.gov.

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