

2025

STUDENT SHOWCASE AND FUNDRAISER

FEATURING

STUDENT INTERVIEWERS

PANELISTS



**Yasmeen
Abutaleb**



**Gary
Fields**



**Derrick
Deal Jr.**



**Rossy
Soto**

EVENT TIMING

6 - 8:00 p.m.

Student Showcase, drinks
and appetizers

7 - 7:25 p.m.

Program



OUR STUDENTS

Panel Interviewer



Derrick Deal Jr.

Senior

Bard High School Early College DC Washington, DC

Derrick Deal Jr. will graduate with an associate degree in June. Through his classroom collaboration and independent work, he's contributed photos and reporting to two stories about dirt bike culture and safety in DC. He plans to attend a four-year college and to major in journalism, graphic design and/or art.

Panel Interviewer



Rossy Soto

Senior

Annandale High School Annandale, VA

Rossy Soto has had three stories published through her work with YMG in two feature reporting workshops and our classroom collaboration with her school's journalism class. She's not sure yet what she wants to study, but will definitely be getting a college degree.

Ambassador



Winnie Chan

Senior

Benjamin Banneker Academic High School Washington, DC

Winnie Chan has had three stories published with YMG, the most recent in Greater Greater Washington, where she wrote about dirt bike culture in DC. Winnie plans to attend college in New York City and major in public health or biology.



Ambassador



Luciana Diaz

Senior

Wakefield High School

Arlington, VA

Luciana Diaz joined YMG last summer through a social media bootcamp for Arlington County students, where she created social media posts about equity in access to youth sports and gun safety. Luciana plans to major in communications or nursing.

Ambassador



Jasmin Dinh

Senior

Annandale High School

Annandale, VA

Jasmin Dinh is co-editor of Annandale High School's award-winning newspaper, the A-Blast. Jasmin co-wrote a story about misdiagnosis in women that was published in Public Good News, has covered distracted driving and is working on an article on pedestrian safety in Fairfax County. Jasmin hopes to attend the University of Virginia and study psychology.

Ambassador



Rosana Wahdat

Junior

Wakefield High School

Arlington, VA

Rosana Wahdat joined YMG last summer through a social media bootcamp and is now in our fall feature writing workshop. Rosana hopes to be a surgeon.



OUR PANELISTS



Washington Post Reporter

Yasmeen Abutaleb

Yasmeen Abutaleb is a politics reporter for The Washington Post, focused on the Democratic party. She previously covered the Biden White House with a focus on foreign policy, including the Israel-Gaza war and its impact on the 2024 presidential election. Yasmeen also covered the 2024 presidential race, Biden's historic decision to drop out of the race less than four months before Election Day and Kamala Harris's compressed campaign.

Before that, Yasmeen covered health care and the Department of Health and Human Services for several years. That included covering the Trump administration's response to the covid-19 pandemic as well as Republican efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. Yasmeen co-authored *Nightmare Scenario: Inside the Trump Administration's Response to the Pandemic That Changed History*, a New York Times no. 1 bestseller.

She previously covered technology in San Francisco and then health policy for Reuters. Yasmeen double-majored in microbiology and journalism at the University of Maryland, where she was editor of The Diamondback school newspaper during her junior year in 2012-13.

MUST READS

[“5,000 miles away, a Michigan mayor at the center of the Gaza storm”](#) - WaPo, 8/28/2024

[“Medicaid cuts threaten rural hospitals — and access to maternity care”](#) - WaPo, 9/1/2025



Associated Press Reporter

Gary Fields

Gary Fields is a veteran reporter who has worked in journalism more than four decades, including lengthy stays at the Wall Street Journal, The Associated Press, USA Today and The Times in Shreveport. The bulk of his career has been focused on criminal justice and poverty issues, although more recently he has covered the nation's political system as part of AP's Democracy Team.

Gary has graduate and undergraduate degrees from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana where he is a member of the school's Purple Line for graduates of distinction, as well as a member of the university's Journalism graduates of distinction. He was inducted into the Louisiana Public Broadcasting Louisiana Legends in 2023. Most recently, Fields was among the AP reporters who were finalists for a Pulitzer Prize in breaking news and a contributor to an investigation into in-custody police deaths that was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize in the investigative category. He was part of the staff at WSJ that was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 2002 for breaking news for its coverage of 9/11.

Fields is a lifetime member of National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) and was NABJ's Journalist of the Year in 1997. He has won a variety of other journalism awards, including a White House Correspondents Award for coverage of criminal justice issues, a National Press Foundation Freddie Award and the Thurgood Marshall Award for coverage of death penalty issues and this year the National Press Club's breaking news award with his AP colleagues.

MUST READS

["As Inmates Age, A Prison Carpenter Builds More Coffins"](#) - WSJ, 5/18/2005

["Is a Little Radiation So Bad?"](#) - WSJ, 8/12/2016



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