



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. Louis educator named national Family Teacher of the Year runner-up

\$5,000 Toyota Family Teacher of the Year grant will fund doula program for community

ST. LOUIS (October 26, 2020) — As a certified adult educator, licensed clinical social worker, public policy advocate, and certified doula, Aminah Williams positively impacts families throughout the spectrum of life. For the lasting results achieved through this holistic approach, she is being recognized by Toyota and the National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) as the 2020 Toyota Family Teacher of the Year runner-up. As runner-up, Williams and her organization, Parents as Teachers, will receive a \$5,000 grant to expand a postpartum doula program.

“Aminah Williams possesses the unique skillset and devotion to positively impact families in her St. Louis community,” said Mike Goss, general manager, Social Innovation, Toyota Motor North America. “As an organization dedicated to providing opportunities for everyone, we are motivated by her incredible efforts.”

Williams has served as a key liaison between families in need and community resources, routinely working with mothers who are homeless to secure a job, home, and, in some cases, higher education. As a food and nutrition specialist, she teaches young families living in food deserts how to prepare healthy meals and organizes free nutritional education and mental health awareness fairs. A certified birth doula, Williams provides expectant mothers knowledge about pregnancy and helps them create a birthing plan. This spring, she expressed concerns about disparities in maternal morbidity and mortality in a panel briefing to U.S. Congressional staff in Washington, DC.

“At NCFL, we take a holistic, multigenerational approach to education because we know that it creates a stronger impact and greater success for families,” said Dr. Joshua Cramer, executive vice president, NCFL. “For her many efforts in the areas of pregnancy, nutrition, mental health, and employment, we commend Aminah for working with families in such a holistic way.”

One of Williams’ greatest strengths—and a key driver of these results—is her ability to listen.

“Aminah embodies the foundation of Parents as Teachers, which is partnering with families from a strength-based perspective to gain their trust and mutual respect,” said Alison Gee, vice president of government and community engagement, Parents as Teachers. “She does a lot of listening to help families find their voices and advocate for themselves [while] constantly looking for ways to bring more value to their lives.”

The Toyota Family Teacher of the Year award, a national honor now in its 24th year, recognizes that

families play a crucial role in the success of children and salutes educators who are exceptional at using intergenerational approaches to engage students and their families in education.

Williams and winner Leila Kubesch, of Cincinnati, were surprised virtually in front of their classes. Each will be invited to the 2021 Families Learning Conference, which will be held in Dallas from Oct. 25-27, 2021. The conference convenes national experts in education, family engagement, and research to discuss and share the latest information regarding multigenerational approaches to learning.

Since 1997, Toyota Family Teacher of the Year winners, runners-up, and their respective organizations have received \$600,000.

About the National Center for Families Learning

The National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) is a national nonprofit that works to eradicate poverty through education solutions for families. Partnering with educators, literacy advocates, and policymakers, NCFL develops and provides programming, professional development, and resources from the classroom to the community that empower and raise families to achieve their potential. For more information on NCFL, visit familieslearning.org.

About Toyota

Toyota (NYSE:TM), creator of the Prius hybrid and the Mirai fuel cell vehicle, is committed to building vehicles for the way people live through our **Toyota and Lexus** brands. Over the past 60 years, we've built more than 38 million cars and trucks in North America, where we have 14 manufacturing plants, 15 including our joint venture in Alabama (10 in the U.S.), and directly employ more than 47,000 people (over 36,000 in the U.S.). Our 1,800 North American dealerships (nearly 1,500 in the U.S.) sold 2.8 million cars and trucks (2.4 million in the U.S.) in 2018.

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