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Community Access National Network Names 2020 HIV Advocacy Scholarship Honorees

Honorees include Khadijah I. Abdullah, Kathleen A. McManus, MD, and Tori Cooper

WASHINGTON, DC (September 8, 2020) – The Community Access National Network, otherwise known as CANN, today named the honorees for its three advocacy scholarships. Named in memoriam after Thomas P. McCormick, Gary R. Rose, and the Honorable Maurice D. Hinchey, M.C, each of the advocacy scholarships focus on HIV/AIDS-related public policy issues.

- **The Thomas P. McCormick Advocacy Scholarship** was awarded to **Kathleen A. McManus, MD**, Department of Medicine at the University of Virginia. The scholarship is awarded annually to an advocate dedicated to improving access to care and treatment under Medicaid. In Virginia, Kate has played an important role in Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act, which contributed to the uninsured rate declining from 18% to 14% among people living with HIV/AIDS.
- **The Gary R. Rose Advocacy Scholarship** was awarded to **Tori Cooper**, who is the director of community engagement for the Human Rights Campaign's transgender justice initiative. The scholarship is awarded annually to an advocate dedicated to improving access to care and treatment under the Ryan White CARE Act. Tori has led the charge against the discrimination faced by Black transgender women and people living with HIV. That's part of what's driving her work with HRC's ELEVATE program, where she serves as a facilitator.
- **The Honorable Maurice D. Hinchey Advocacy Scholarship** was awarded to **Khadijah I. Abdullah**, Founder & Executive Director of the Reaching All HIV+ Muslims In America (RAHMA). The scholarship is awarded annually to an advocated dedicated to improving access to care and treatment under national and global health programs. Khadijah's work led to the National Faith HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. In its first year, the day reached over 150,000 people across the US. Muslims, Jews, Christians, Sikhs, Hindus, Bahai's and Buddhists gathered together to make this day a success.

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The advocacy scholarships allow advocates to attend specific HIV/AIDS-related educational events.

To learn more about the advocacy scholarships, or sign-up to receive timely updates please visit http://tiicann.org/signup_listserv.html.

For general information, please contact CANN at info@tiicann.org.

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***About the Community Access National Network:** The mission of the Community Access National Network (CANN) is to define, promote, and improve access to healthcare services and supports for people living with HIV/AIDS and/or Viral Hepatitis through advocacy, education, and networking. These services must be affordable to the people who need them regardless of insurance status, income, or geographic location.*