

Two Hartford Students Receive Scholarships

The Vinyl Record Collectors Association (VRCA), Connecticut Chapter presented scholarships to two Hartford area students at the organization's second Annual Jamaica Independence Dance held at Vibes Uptown Banquet Hall on August 15, 2015. VRCA matched a \$500 gift from the Tinker Realty and Insurance Company and awarded \$1,000 to Kymani Harriot, who will attend the University of Hartford. The second scholarship was a \$500 gift by Jamaican businessman, Lenworth Walker, which was awarded to Jada Simms, who also will attend the University of Hartford. The awardees were selected from students who were asked to write a 500-word essay on the topic "What does Independence mean to me as a member of the diaspora". Students had to be Jamaican or of Jamaican parents living in Hartford.

Also honored at the event were three "foundation" members of the "local music community" in Hartford. The awardees are Derval Tomlinson and Derrick "Platinum" Reid for their contribution to sound system development and Juliette "Binsky" Morle for the advancement of "collector soul and reggae music" through her Saturday Serenade internet radio show on reggaeworldmusic.com.

Mr. Michael Neysmith, Vice President of the National Organization thanked the donors for their contributions while at the same time, praising the scholarship recipients and the VRCA Awardees for the work they have put in.