

YouthLaunch

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May 30, 2007**Local Student wins Statewide Service Honor**

Michael Charles Brown, a 2007 graduate of Ball High School, was awarded the YouthLaunch Scholarship for Outstanding Service for his exemplary community service. Presented with the honor on Friday, June 1, at the YouthLaunch Annual Service Awards Luncheon in Austin, Brown said “My volunteer work has made me examine my values, attitudes and beliefs.”

Accumulating hundreds of service hours, Brown realized at an early age the importance of giving back to the community. “I view service as a social responsibility,” Brown explained. “I see it as a way to be an active leader in today’s world.”

Since he was in middle school Brown has held an executive position on the Galveston Youth Advisory Committee. He was later named to the Mayor’s Families, Children and Youth Board, and organized the city’s Annual Teen Summit, four years in a row.

This citywide event featured national speakers, workshops, games and entertainment. “The hardest part was coming up with the money to fund it,” Brown said.

Under Brown’s leadership, the committee was able to persuade Subway to donate the food, Wal-Mart to donate prizes and several local businesses to help with other expenses. “We were determined to overcome our obstacles and put on a great event for the young people in our community.”

Active in his high school, Brown was a member of the National Honor Society, the Spanish Honor Society, the Student Council and was an after-school tutor. He will use his YouthLaunch scholarship towards tuition at Texas A&M, where he will study civil engineering in the fall.

YouthLaunch awards three service scholarships each year to Texas high school seniors, based solely on their service, leadership and character. YouthLaunch is an Austin-based nonprofit agency that provides and promotes meaningful service opportunities for teens.