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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GRAND RAPIDS HOUSING COMMISSION RESIDENT WINS
NATIONAL PHADA SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION**

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, June 27, 2024—Taylor Pierce-James, a recent Grand Rapids City High School graduate whose family participates in a Grand Rapids Housing Commission (GRHC) affordable housing program, has been named the winner of the 2024 Stephen J. Bollinger Memorial Scholarship awarded by the Public Housing Authority Directors Association (PHADA); PHADA represents more than 1,900 member housing agencies nationwide, and the \$7,000 Bollinger Scholarship Competition was open to applicants from affordable housing programs across the country.

Pierce-James accepted her Bollinger Scholarship award at the PHADA Annual Convention & Exhibition held in New Orleans earlier this month. In recognizing her achievements, PHADA officials applauded Pierce-James’ “passion for lifelong learning” and cited not only her impressive academic and high school athletic accomplishments but also her work in the community; Pierce-James has served as a youth intern with the Urban League of West Michigan and now sits on the executive committee of the Grand Rapids NAACP Youth Council. She received the 2023 Community Spirit Youth Award from LINC Up for her work in the community. Pierce-James will attend the University of Michigan as an Astrophysics major this fall.

“We are so excited about Taylor receiving this award,” said GRHC Executive Director Lindsey S. Reames. “Taylor excels at everything she does and just has that drive for achievement—whether it’s in academics, on the athletic field, in the community working as a volunteer, or working at a job. She is truly an impressive young woman.”

View a video interview with Pierce-James here: <https://bit.ly/3KH3jsA>

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