

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **YWCA Announces First Young Professionals Board Female Leadership Team Convenes to Empower Richmond**

RICHMOND, Va. (Jan. 23, 2015) - The YWCA of Richmond announced the first meeting of the 24 newly-appointed members of its new young professionals board, the Young Women's Leadership Alliance (YWLA). These female leaders between the ages of 25- and 35-years-old began their service on Jan. 8, 2015 and will each serve a two-year term. The aim of this program is to connect a diverse group of professional women to create positive community impact, and to provide regular leadership and development training for YWLA members.

"The Young Women's Leadership Alliance aims to launch its participants to the next level of workplace leadership and community volunteerism with a signature mix of training, service-learning and camaraderie," YWCA board member and Programs Committee chair, Maya Smart said.

The new YWLA board members provide a diverse range of professional experience:

- **April Auger**, Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership at the University of Virginia
- **Cassie Baudean**, Baudean Law, PLLC
- **Susan Beck**, Capital One
- **Asa Burnham**, Community Advocate
- **Eva Colen**, Teach for America
- **Brittany Dickinson**, PricewaterhouseCoopers
- **Samantha Dorr**, Virginia Oral Health Coalition
- **Tiffany Ford**, Richmond Ambulance Authority
- **Natalie Garramone**, The Frontier Project, LLC
- **Allison Gilbreath**, Prevent Child Abuse Virginia
- **Kiara Green**, Pulsar Advertising, Metropolitan Business League
- **Quelina Jones**, Altria Client Services
- **Sarah Austin Jones**, Virginia Housing Development Authority
- **Lauren Kiger**, VCU Massey Cancer Center
- **Crystal Lowery**, Mosaic Catering
- **Shantell Malachi**, Dress for Success Central Virginia
- **Heather Myers**, Capital One
- **Bianca Myrick**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
- **Molly Plautz**, Dominion
- **Jacqueline Robinson**, VCU Partnership for People with Disabilities
- **Jennifer Romeo**, Allianz Global Assistance
- **April Talley**, Better Housing Coalition
- **Michelle Taylor**, Community Advocate
- **Jessica Tobin**, Hunton & Williams LLP

"We are incredibly excited that the YWCA can bring together this dynamic group of young women professionals who are all emerging leaders in their respective fields," Chief Executive Officer, Linda Tisiere, said.

"We aim to build a corps of young professionals who are passionate about empowering themselves and others," Smart added.

The YWLA is the most recent addition to the YWCA's programming to empower women in Richmond, which includes an all-female Board of Directors, the annual Outstanding Women Awards and the Pat Asch Fellowship for Social Justice. The YWCA of Richmond furthers its commitment to the empowerment of women and their families by providing nationally-accredited early childhood education programming, as well as free counseling, case management and emergency housing services for survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence and intimate partner violence.

If you or a loved one has experienced domestic or sexual violence, you may call the Greater Richmond Regional Hotline at 804-612-6126. For more information about the YWCA of Richmond or YWLA,

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