



*Stan Johnson, President of the AnnieRuth Foundation; Eunice Mathis, CEO of The Florida Training Academy; Keshon Mabry, 2016 award recipient and Dale Moe, Board Member of the AnnieRuth Foundation*

The AnnieRuth Foundation's Summer Internship Program is a six-week, needs-based program that affords high school students the opportunity to work part-time in a real life setting, learn new skills and interact with professionals. The program not only gives high school students an opportunity to earn money but a part of the application process includes understanding each applicant's career aspirations. Workforce professionals carefully select a safe professional environment that aligns with the award recipient's future goals.

Educators on the First Coast scored student essays using pre-defined criteria. Essay scores were ranked, 10 finalist advanced to the next phase of the process and four students were selected as 2016 award recipients!

Keshon Mabry, a graduating senior of Mandarin High school was one of two male award recipients! Keshon aspires to become an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) or a Physician's Assistant (PA). With this in mind, Keshon was placed at The Florida Training Academy.

Eunice Mathis, CEO of The Florida Training Academy, had this to say about Keshon's experience, "During Keshon's six-week internship at our training facility, he worked directly with our Director and Office Manager. Keshon was certified in Basic Life Support (BLS) and successfully completed the American Heart Association Basic Life Support (BLS) Instructor course. Doing so, allowed Keshon the opportunity to facilitate the training of dozens of healthcare professionals. In addition, Keshon was able to meet nurses, ARNPs, and PAs. Many of whom were able to provide advice and direction to aid Keshon with his future career choices. More importantly, Keshon was able to interact and train adult students from different races, educational levels and socio-economic backgrounds. He was able to witness, firsthand, all of the daily duties that are required to be a nurse entrepreneur and a small business owner.

We sincerely appreciate the time that we were able to spend with Keshon. We also wish him much success as he prepares to start college at Bethune Cookman University this fall. Lastly, Many thanks to the AnnieRuth Foundation for providing such a great program for our area's youth. We look forward to working with your organization and another intern in the future."

When asked his thoughts about the AnnieRuth Foundation's Summer Internship Program, Keshon responded, "Through this program, I've learned ways to be successful from learning how to perform well during an interview, to speaking out more when in public, to learning how to start my own business. I've grown much confidence and I'm now prepared to handle any situation that comes my way. I am very thankful to the AnnieRuth Foundation for providing this opportunity."