

*Dee Wilcox, Executive Director of the AnnieRuth Foundation; TaNia Anderson, 2016 award recipient; Traci Evans, Owner of Meow & Barks Boutique; and Janice Sanders, Treasurer 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!

TaNia Anderson, an upcoming senior at Paxon School of Advanced Studies was one of two female award recipients! TaNia aspires to become a Buyer in the Fashion Merchandising industry. With this in mind, TaNia was placed at Meow & Barks Boutique in the San Marco area.

Traci Evans, owner of Meow & Barks Boutique, had this to say about TaNia's experience, "Tania's talents were always evident in her performance. She displayed strong leadership and logical thinking abilities. She consistently completed tasks assigned on time and without errors. In short, TaNia was a model member of our company. TaNia's performance at work proves that she is fully capable of fulfilling her dreams of becoming a Buyer in the Fashion Merchandising industry. Thank you for pairing Tania with us! I am very thankful and appreciative of the AnnieRuth Foundation for offering such a substantive internship program to high school students on the First Coast."

When asked her thoughts about the AnnieRuth Foundation's Summer Internship Program, TaNia responded, "Being an AnnieRuth Foundation 2016 summer internship award recipient has been a blessing and an honor. I am so very grateful to have been offered this opportunity because this internship is the first step to my career goal as a Fashion Buyer. I am very thankful to Ms. Traci for being my mentor and teaching me so much about the industry. I am also thankful for the AnnieRuth Foundation for giving to the community by investing in the future of students."