

*Janice Sanders, Treasurer of the AnnieRuth Foundation; Zacari Rogers, 2016 award recipient; Lynn Jones, Editor, Jacksonville Free Press; and Dee Wilcox, Executive Director 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!

Zacari Rogers, an upcoming senior at Englewood High School was one of two female award recipients! Zacari aspires to become a Naval Officer with a concentration in journalism. With this in mind, Zacari was placed at the Jacksonville Free Press.

Lynn Jones, editor at the Jacksonville Free Press, had this to say about Zacari's experience, "While interning at the Jacksonville Free Press, Zacari performed various assignments which included: filing, on the spot news reporting, bulk mailing, advertisers "tear" sheet processing, JFP Ad board and employee manual updates. For six weeks Zacari learned the inner workings of a weekly newspaper input and output. Overall Zacari completed her assignments in a timely manner, asked questions and made inquiries into the core purpose of being a journalist. Zacari researched, documented, wrote, and presented the news in an honest, ethical and unbiased way. Her hard work, interviewing people was recognized for writing copy for a publication on a tight deadline. Zacari's ability to fact-check information was a plus; her basic office knowledge was utilized on a daily basis. We are thankful for the opportunity to serve the AnnieRuth Foundation's intern initiative while, "sowing seeds, strengthening communities."

When asked her thoughts about the AnnieRuth Foundation's Summer Internship Program, Zacari responded, "I was so excited when I learned that I would be working at the Jacksonville Free Press! There was never a dull moment working with my mentor, Mrs. Lynn. I am extremely blessed for being an award recipient of the AnnieRuth Foundation's summer internship program because I was able to learn more about my future career and got paid for it. It was an amazing experience!"