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FSCNY PRESENTED 20th ANNUAL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

*State Assembly Member Michael Blake, a former FSCNY Scholarship Winner,
addressed this year's student-honorees*

May 10th, 2016, Brooklyn, NY - The Financial Service Centers of New York (FSCNY) presented its **20th Annual Scholarship Awards** to seven students from the New York City Metropolitan Area and Westchester County.

The students received over \$40,000 in scholarship money and prizes, the highest annual amount ever granted by the **FSCNY/MoneyGram Scholarship Program**. State Assembly Member **Michael Blake** (District 79th, Bronx), a former FSCNY Scholarship recipient who has forged a nationally-renowned career in public service, delivered an inspirational speech during the Awards Luncheon held at the Brooklyn Marriott, during **FSCNY's 24th Annual Conference and Exposition**.

2016 FSCNY SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS:

Grand Prizes:

Jerson Mejia-Castro, High School of Computers and Technology, Bronx NY (**Gene Schott Memorial Scholarship Award**)

Rose Reiken, White Plains High School, White Plains, NY (**William Siegel Memorial Scholarship Award**)

First Place Scholarship Awards:

Zahra Aboul-Hassan, High School of Fashion Industries, New York NY

Rahat Hossan, Jamaica Gateway to the Sciences, Queens NY

Sandeep Kaur, The Baccalaureate School for Global Education, Queens NY

Julianne Sanscartier, Harrison High School, Harrison NY

Sara Taha, Fort Hamilton High School, Staten Island NY

Grand Prize Scholarship Award winners received \$7,500 each, and First Place Award winners received \$5,000 each. The winners also received a laptop computer

courtesy of **TellerMetrix**, a FSCNY associate member. All winners are high school seniors entering their freshman year in college in the Fall.

FSCNY's Scholarship Program has granted more than three-quarter of a million dollars to 317 students, since its inception in 1996.



(L-R) **Sara Taha** (Fort Hamilton High School, **Staten Island**), **Zahra Aboul-Hassan** (High School of fashion Industries,**Manhattan**), **Rose Reiken** (White Plains High School, **White Plains** - William Siegel Memorial Scholarship Award - Grand Prize), State Assemblyman **Michael Blake** (Dist. 79th, **Bronx**), **Jerson Mejia-Castro** (High School of Computers and Technology, **Bronx** - Gene Schott Memorial Scholarship Award - Grand Prize), **Rahat Hossan** (Jamaica Gateway to the Sciences, **Queens**), and **Julianne Sanscartier** (Harrison High School, **Harrison**). Photo by Roberto Soler.

About FSCNY (Financial Service Centers of New York):

The Financial Service Centers of New York is the industry's leading voice on legislative, regulatory, and business issues and the leading advocate for the rights of consumers to access basic financial services in New York. The New York check cashing industry consists of approximately 530 check cashing locations, which employ nearly 4,000 New York residents. Nearly 80% of employees are African American and Latino. The industry is composed largely of small businesses that are located in the working class neighborhoods that have been abandoned or never served by banks. The industry cashes nearly 20 million checks annually with a face value of nearly \$11 billion. New York's check cashing fee cap of 2.01% is among the lowest in the nation. For more information about FSCNY's Scholarships and other community programs, visit www.fscny.org.

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