

## Ford presents scholarships to young technical entrepreneurs

*Chicago, IL* – This summer, the Ford Motor Co Fund, the Society of Manufacturing Engineers Education Foundation and Chicagoland Entrepreneurial Center joined forces to run the 2009 Future Founders Academy. This week-long tech/business camp is designed for diverse, technically inclined South Side Chicago high schoolers.

The students visited high-tech entrepreneurs, then researched business plans for green-tech products they saw on exhibit at the Chicago Museum of Science and Technology.



Some of the scholarship winners take time to pose with Ford and SME guides.

At the end of the week, they presented their business plans in a competition for Ford Blue Oval scholarships. These scholarships are given to students interested in a college degree that prepares them for a science, technology, engineering or manufacturing-related career.

First-place recipients were Mia Bridges, a graduate of the Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy; Zoë Damacela, an incoming senior at Whitney Young High School; and Brandon Tucker, an incoming senior at Global Visions Academy.

Second-place recipients were Sean Coleman, an incoming senior at Chicago Vocational Career Academy; Lucia Gonzalez, a graduate of the Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy; and Devanté Perry, an incoming senior at Global Visions Academy.

Third-place recipients were Devin King, a graduate of ACE Technical Charter High School; Mia Lee, a graduate of Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy; and John Nash, an incoming senior at George Washington High School.

Fourth-place recipients were Corey Barksdale, a graduate of Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy; Jessalyn Lofton, an incoming senior at Global Visions Academy; and Ezequiel Negrete, a graduate of Edwin G. Foreman High School.