In honor of their achievements, fifty-three Maryland students with special needs will receive scholarship awards from the Michael Cardin Scholarship Committee of the Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities (MANSEF). The scholarship ceremony will take place Wednesday, June 6, 2018, during a luncheon at the Ten Oaks Ballroom, Clarksville, Md.

The students -- who all attend or previously attended a MANSEF member school -- are challenged by a range of emotional and/or learning disabilities and were nominated for the awards by their schools in recognition of their perseverance and hard work. The awards will allow the students to take part in a range of academic, training or extracurricular activities.

“These scholarships recognize students who have overcome challenges to move forward in school, at home and in their communities,” said Dorie Flynn, executive director of MANSEF. “More importantly are the confidence and self-esteem these students will gain during the exciting programs that await them this summer and beyond.”

Along with the scholarships, MANSEF will present two additional awards:

**Distinguished Citizen Award**

George Moore, of Montgomery County Public Schools, is receiving the Distinguished Citizen Award. George has been a tireless advocate and friend to Maryland’s children with special needs for more than 40 years. Throughout his impressive career, he has made an impact on the lives of countless youth by ensuring access to appropriate educational services. This commitment to special education and unwavering support of all that nonpublic schools can provide demonstrates that George is truly deserving of this recognition as “2018 MANSEF Distinguished Citizen.”

**Inspiring Dreams, Changing Lives Award**

Alison Hunt is the 2018 MANSEF Inspiring Dreams, Changing Lives Award winner. Alison has been employed with the Harbour School for the past 14 years after retiring from her 27-year career with the Anne Arundel County Public Schools. Throughout Alison’s career and her consistent contribution to her immediate community, she personifies the MANSEF mission to be a voice and resource for the nonpublic special education community and a champion of the continuum of services. Her selfless dedication has benefitted countless children and families, whose lives have changed because of her efforts.
We serve as the collective voice and essential resource for the nonpublic special education community to champion the continuum of services for students with special needs.

-- MANSEF’s mission

MANSEF has had another full year of activities inspiring dreams and changing lives. It is remarkable to see the many ways in which MANSEF strives to best serve Maryland’s children with special needs and to assure a comprehensive continuum of educational programs and services by:

- Advancing the mission of the association;
- Serving as a liaison to the Maryland State Department of Education and Local School Systems regarding program approval, COMAR, staff certification, budget procedures, curriculum, state assessment and other issues impacting MANSEF schools and students;
- Organizing the MANSEF Conference and other professional development opportunities;
- Preparing schools to plan for the safety and unique needs of their students in the event of an emergency situation;
- Advocating to the legislature during MANSEF’s Lobby Day and through other extensive lobbying efforts;
- Granting additional supports for students to meet state assessment requirements for graduation;
- Collaborating with Local School Systems to ensure access to curriculum guides for implementing College and Career Ready Standards;
- Facilitating opportunities for participation in Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS);
- Coordinating wrap-around supports to provide specialized services for special education students attending private and public schools;
- Sharing resources with families and advocates for students with special needs by responding to specific inquiries and distributing the MANSEF Membership Directory;
- Offering resources to support a range of transition services for students ages 14-21;
- Representing MANSEF’s goals, needs and interests at the local, state and national level by attending conferences and sharing resources;
- Highlighting the successes of MANSEF schools, community partners, and students through social media, the website, and Stepping Stones;
- Providing networking, technical assistance, and mentoring opportunities to member schools to strengthen their ability to serve students;
- Awarding Michael Cardin Scholarships to deserving MANSEF students seeking to pursue educational, recreational and vocational experiences;
- Enhancing the role parents play in educating the community and advocating for students through the Friends of MANSEF; and
- Serving as a centralized source of valuable support and information about the educational options available for Maryland’s special education students.

These reflect how MANSEF works to strengthen Maryland’s special education community. Regardless of your role or inspiration, there are countless ways in which you too can be a part of creating positive change and carrying forward MANSEF’s mission.

Tania DuBeau
President MANSEF
Baltimore Lab School Junior Shines at Everyman Theatre Winter Gala

Baltimore Lab School (BLS) Junior Emanual Williams was recently selected to speak at Everyman Theatre’s Winter Gala (January 2018). Emanual confidently and articulately described his experience as a member in Everyman’s High School Matinee Program to a captivated audience. This program, which has provided Baltimore City students access to Everyman’s productions since 1997, takes students on a deep dive into the theatre-going experience. Emanual reflected on the impact the pre-show workshops have on his understanding of and growing passion for live theatre. Emanual was one of just two students selected - from over 1,500 students - to speak at the event. He had a line of rapt attendees waiting to talk to him after he finished his speech. Baltimore Lab School is immensely proud of Emanual’s involvement in this transformative program, and is grateful for its strong partnership with Everyman Theatre.

The Children's Guild

Eagle Scout Daniel Turner, an 8th grade graduate of The Children’s Guild, visited the school in April to deliver book shelves he made for K-2 classrooms as part of his Eagle Scout project as well as 700 books and cash donations he collected as he wants everyone to have the gift of reading. Daniel also presented an inspiring speech to students about his positive experiences at The Guild and the great amount of learning he received. He told students he will be taking honors classes next year in high school. He then asked the male students in the audience to consider joining him by becoming an Eagle Scout.

The Forbush School at Glyndon

Olivia S.’s artwork was selected for the Maryland Coalition for Families, as winner of the “Children’s Mental Health Matters” 2018 campaign. Her artwork will be featured on all print material across the state this year! Olivia’s artwork was unveiled at the annual statewide Child and Adolescent Conference at Martin’s West on March 13, 2018.

The Forbush School at Glyndon celebrated its 16th Annual “Forbush Has Talent” show on March 28, 2018 under the direction of Ms. Danyell Griffin, Educational Assistant and Ms. Lynne Hoffman, Music Director. Students showcased talents, such as singing, dancing, playing instruments, and performing magic tricks. This was a standing room only event, as parents, former staff, and local school systems representatives attended to support our students. Performing in the talent show gives students the opportunity to develop confidence and share their talents in a supportive, nurturing environment. Saffiyah O. and Nathen K.G. served as emcees and did an outstanding job!
The Harbour School

J.R. Gibson graduated from The Harbour School at Annapolis in 2014. After graduating from high school, J.R. continued with his transition field placement at Future Care, a rehabilitation center in Annapolis. The only difference was that now J.R. was a full time paid employee. This year J.R. was celebrated in the company newsletter for completing his 4th year of employment as a chef in the Future Care kitchen. J.R. developed a delicious recipe for chocolate dipped macaroons while he was at Harbour.

Three Harbour School at Annapolis students were celebrated at the 2018 awards ceremony for Artists Without Limits. This is a competitive awards ceremony for students with disabilities. In the past, some of our student’s art has been selected to hang in the office suite of the Anne Arundel County Executive.

Eric Russo, a student at The Harbour School at Annapolis, recently won the YMCA Invitational Swimming meet. He earned the 2017 OROKAWA swimming award and the coaches award.

The Capital Gazette honored two Harbour School at Annapolis students for their outstanding high school achievement. The Mayor of Annapolis presented the awards to Caroline Davis and Shayne Mauk. Their teachers Gail Kos and Elaine Verne accompanied them to the ceremony.

Elijah Coleman, a student at The Harbour School at Baltimore, was selected to participate in the Model Senate at Goucher College. Elijah was acting as Senator Todd Young of Indiana. After researching Senator Young’s bills, Elijah chose increasing the minimum wage to $15. He also promoted more disposable income to make weekends more fun!
Ivymount

Jonathan M., a 12th grade student at Ivymount, is the purest example of someone who has learned the importance of self-advocacy and hard work. During his ten years at Ivymount, Jonathan has applied his considerable skills and determination to a remarkably wide range of interests and academic progress which will culminate in his transitioning to DCPS’s Coolidge High School, on track to graduate in 2019. He has been a Youth Leader and deejay at the DC Annual Voices of Change Conference, an Ivymount School to Work intern, and a tournament-winning tennis player as a member of the Wilson High School Varsity team. Jonathan already has identified his career aspirations – to work in the tennis industry, hopefully as a coach. Ivymount’s Director, Susan Holt, commented, “Jonathan demonstrates how a future can be shaped by taking every advantage of the encouragement and opportunities provided by his teachers. He makes us all proud.”

The Pathways Schools - Edgewood

A’iesha Clark is a freshman at The Pathways Schools-Edgewood. When the opportunity arose to submit art to be considered for the 2018 Children’s Mental Health Matters poster of the Maryland Coalition of Families for Children’s Mental Health, A’iesha thought about how to convey a message of hope. Her personal experience was one of resilience, and she wanted to illustrate that mental illness does not define identity. When her poster art was selected as one of only 10 top finalists, it was clear that she had succeeded in her goal.

A’iesha is an excellent student and participates in therapeutic horseback riding. In addition to art and horses her interests include poetry and music. Her career hopes are focused on helping others, perhaps as an art therapist or a surgeon specializing in reconstructive plastic surgery, both choices that blend her creative talent with a desire to make a difference in people’s lives.
Fatoumatta (Matta) S. is a 12th Grade student at Youth in Transition. Matta has made incredible strides since her admission to Youth in Transition School in April, 2014. Matta will graduate with a High School Diploma, Vocational Certificates from The Community College of Baltimore County, and a vast amount of employable skills.

Through the Youth in Transition work program, Matta was able to procure a job at a local Thrift Store. Matta cleans public areas, sorts clothing donations, and is interacting with customers in a professional manner. Matta has earned two Vocational Certificates from the Community College of Baltimore County’s Single Step Program (Clerical Skills and Animal Skills). Matta would like to use the skills learned from her CCBC Animal Skills program to work in the animal care field upon graduation in June, 2018.

St. Elizabeth School

SES Student Andre Kitts is putting his new Eye Gaze assistive technology device to good use! Eye Gaze allows Andre to control his communication device solely through his eye movements, so he doesn’t have to physically touch the screen. With the support of his teachers, Mr. Carlos Almeida (also known as “Dr. A”) and Ms. Marci Protos, along with Assistive Technology Specialist Ms. Sarah Calhoun, Andre became the first SES student to use Eye Gaze to take his state exams! We are looking forward to watching Andre’s progress as he continues to communicate with these remarkable tools.

After fierce competition in all 3 grade groupings, the following students earned their place as top spellers:

**ELEMENTARY**
Winner: Evert A. (Lanham)
Runner Up: Zye’ J (Laurel)

**MIDDLE**
Winner: Mariella M. (Lanham)

**HIGH**
Winner: Dashawn R. (Lanham)
Runner Up (tie) Kendra R. (Lanham) & Wesley R. (Lanham)

It was an A-M-A-Z-I-N-G display of academic skill and stellar sportsmanship both befitting the legacy of Jalen White.
Forbush School

Glyndon Lower Campus

The 8th grade social skills group from the Forbush School at Glyndon Lower campus 8th grade was actively involved this past winter in earning several service learning hours by organizing a pet food and supply drive for the Baltimore Humane Society. The group worked together to identify a focus, research organizations; create advertisements, including designing their own “jingle”, and collected needed items and money. The dedication and commitment to the cause was amazing as many of the students reflected on the experience feeling “happy” and “helpful” that the work they did will support BHS efforts to “help save animals”.

Prince George’s County

We hosted events to celebrate and acknowledge our students during Autism Awareness month. In addition to school-wide decorations to promote Autism Awareness, staff and students received squeeze toys, car magnets, bracelets, and pens to commemorate the month. On student appreciation day, students enjoyed a movie with treats as well as complimentary haircuts and manicures. We held a simultaneous Autism walk at our campus and at an off-site location. Our most popular event was a student fashion show and they did not disappoint! During Autism Awareness month, we highlighted how special our students are to us and the important work we do that would be impossible without them.

Linwood School

First Lady Yumi Hogan Visits Linwood!

This month, First Lady Yumi Hogan and Secretary Carol Beatty of the Maryland Department of Disabilities joined our students to plant flowers around the sculpture that we share with our sister school in South Korea, the Daniel School. We are so grateful to Mrs. Hogan and Secretary Beatty for their continued support and to Walnut Springs Nursery for generously donating all of the flowers for our garden!
Katherine Thomas School

Artist In Residence

It has been an exciting spring for the students at The Katherine Thomas School. One of the highlights was our students having an Artist-in-Residence. Students learned about Capoeira Angola (Brazilian dance-fight art form) and related music and culture with Artist-in-Residence, Skher Brown. In the classrooms, they learned to dance the Samba, participated in geography lessons about Brazil, studied about the Rainforest (and created a stunning paper one on the wall near the high school kitchen, see the picture here), determined how to get around the Brazil Olympics, and learned all about chocolate, from cocoa beans to making their own candies.

The Harbour Schools

Schools in Court Program

Harbour school students from the Annapolis campus recently participated in the Schools in Court Program. This is the 4th year the students have participated.

The Schools in Court Program takes place at the District Court of Maryland in Anne Arundel County and is presided over by Judge Shaem C.P. Spencer. There are four sessions during the school year in which students from Anne Arundel County high schools attend the program to learn about the legal and financial ramifications of poor decision making, such as drunk driving, speeding, and other offenses. Students hear personal stories from individuals who have been adversely affected by their own poor choices or the poor choices of others. During the last part of the program, students witness court cases heard by Judge Spencer in which defendants are held accountable for their actions that sometimes results in time spent in jail.

Judge Spencer is an Associate Judge. He took over the Schools in Court Program in 2013. He is so committed to this program, that he delays the start of court by 30 minutes so that our students can arrive at the start of court.
MANSEF is pleased to announce and to officially welcome new board members. We appreciate their willingness to dedicate the next 3 years to moving MANSEF forward in fulfilling its mission. Our new Board members are: Angela Chambers from Youth in Transition, Linda Myers from Kennedy Krieger, Chip Maust from Sheppard Pratt and Sue McLendon from Arrow Center.

MANSEF extends our thanks and gratitude to Kate Byers from Laurel Hall, Robin Church from Kennedy Krieger and Gina James from Foundation who will be leaving the board. Their guidance and leadership has established MANSEF as a valuable resource.

The Mann Residential Treatment Center

NOT JUST YOUR TYPICAL CLASSROOM!

What can be better than being a student in a classroom while sailing the Chesapeake Bay? Best learning experience ever! Students at Mann School had an opportunity to sail the Chesapeake Bay and experience, first-hand, the wonders of the bay that we often take for granted. Students learned about living things that are too small to be seen by the naked eye; they learned about buoyancy; water quality and all types of marine life, such as crabs, fish, oysters and jellyfish. As students set sail (yes, students actually at the helm of the boat!) they were exposed to sailing terms, how to use a compass as their guide and took in a bit of sailing theory. What a spectacular day!

Museum Day

Museum Day is an annual event at The Harbour School at Baltimore. Each year the various teams create an invention or an answer to a world problem. This year’s theme was “Real Solutions to Real World Problems”. Adrienne Jones, deputy chief of the House of Delegates attended the event. The photo shows students creating self-watering flower pots entirely out of recycled materials.
**Jake Griffin**, a previous Cardin Scholar who just completed his freshman year at the Baltimore Lab School, will be the keynote speaker at the awards luncheon.

Students from the Villa Maria School and students from the Foundation Schools will perform at the event.

**William Allen**, a previous Cardin Scholar from Montgomery County Public Schools who attended High Road Academy, will use his scholarship for tuition at Montgomery College.

**Andrew Barbosa**, a Prince George’s County Public School student attending Pathways Duval, will use his scholarship to participate in Project Access’s Summer Institute.

**Daniel Barbosa, Jr.**, a Prince George’s County Public School student attending Pathways Duval, will use his scholarship to participate in Project Access’s Summer Institute.

**Micah Breeden**, a previous Cardin Scholar from Prince George’s County who attended High Road Academy, will use his scholarship for tuition at Howard Community College.

**James Burrows**, a Baltimore City Public Schools student attending Baltimore Lab School, will use his scholarship to attend Max Makes Music camp for music composition and production.

**Morgan Butler**, a previous Cardin Scholar and a Charles County Public Schools student attending Kennedy Krieger School - LEAP Program, will use her scholarship to attend summer camp at Melrose Recreation Center.

**Kayla Buttner**, a previous Cardin Scholar from Baltimore County Public Schools, who attended The Forbush School at Glyndon, will use her scholarship for tuition to attend the Community College of Baltimore County to pursue a degree in psychology.

**Keith Calhoun**, a District of Columbia student attending The High Road School of Southern Maryland, will use his scholarship to attend the Sports International Football Camp at Towson University.

**Davontae Conner**, a previous Cardin Scholar and District of Columbia student attending Phillips School – Laurel, will use his scholarship to attend Virginia State College.

**Wyatt Cook**, a Baltimore City Public School student attending Baltimore Lab School, will be using his scholarship to attend the Baltimore Lab School’s summer program.

**Elijah Cotton**, a Prince George’s County Public Schools student attending the Pathways Duval Program, will use his scholarship for a driver’s education course at the Street Smarts Driving School.

**Charles Downey**, a District of Columbia student attending Kennedy Krieger High School, will use his scholarship for Fusion Academy, a high school physics class.

**Wesly Figueroa**, a Baltimore City Public Schools student attending the Villa Maria School, will use his scholarship to attend Mr. Bond and the Science Guys, a science summer camp at Loyola Blakefield.

**Noah Fisher**, a student from Baltimore County Public Schools who attends Kennedy Krieger - Fairmount, will use his scholarship to attend Easter Seals Camp Fairlee.

**Jaelen George**, a Baltimore City Public Schools student attending Baltimore Lab School, will use his scholarship to attend art lessons at Staub Art Studio.

**Ariannah Gordon**, a Montgomery County Public Schools student attending The Foundation School, will use her scholarship to participate in personal fitness training at ZAVAZONE Private Training.

**Jake Griffin**, a previous Cardin Scholar, attending Baltimore Lab School, will use his scholarship for Earth Treks Climbing Fitness.

**Marques Harvey**, a Prince George’s County Public Schools student attending High Road School, will use his scholarship for attending ID Tech Summer Camp, a coding and robotics program.

**Joslyn Hill**, a Prince George’s County Public Schools student who attends The Pathways School – Anne Arundel, will use her scholarship for a driver’s education course at the Genesis Driving School.

**Joshua Holt**, a Charles County Public Schools student attending The Frost School, will use his scholarship to attend the Melwood Recreation Center’s CSM Teen College and Basketball Camp, where he will learn recreational, vocational and social skills.

**Marcel James**, a Baltimore City Public Schools student who attends the Villa Maria School, will use his scholarship for private piano lessons.

**Austin Jarrett**, a previous Cardin Scholar and Baltimore County Public Schools student who attended Baltimore Lab School, will use his scholarship for tuition at York College of PA to pursue his four-year degree.

**Ethan Kaplan**, a Baltimore City Public Schools student attending Baltimore Lab School, will use his scholarship for the Camp Counselor-in-Training program at Camp Shoresh.

**Caleb Kelly**, a Baltimore City Public Schools student attending St. Elizabeth School, will use his scholarship to attend a children’s cooking class at Pierpoint Restaurant.

**Sean Kraft**, a Howard County Public Schools student attending Kennedy Krieger – Fairmount, will use his scholarship to attend Camp Ramapo this summer.

**Nathan Matheson**, a previous Cardin Scholar, from Montgomery County Public Schools who attended The Frost School, will continue to use his scholarship to pursue an associate of arts degree in automotive technology from Montgomery College.

**Brandon McCormick**, a Anne Arundel County Public Schools student attending Pathways – Anne Arundel, will use his scholarship for a driver’s education course at Greg’s Driving School.

**Shane McGuire**, a previous Cardin Scholar from Allegany County Public Schools who attends The Jefferson School at Finan Center, will use his scholarship to attend a traditional martial arts class at Kick Masters Karate.
Aaron McLeod, a Baltimore County Public School student who attends Kennedy Krieger School, Fairmount, will use his scholarship to attend the Maryland Therapeutic Riding program for hippotherapy.

Marilyn Navarro, a Prince George’s County Public Schools student attending the Villa Maria School, will use her scholarship to attend The Painting Workshop.

Jesse Norris, a previous Cardin Scholarship winner and a Baltimore City Public Schools student attending Baltimore Lab School, will use his scholarship to attend Camp Puh’tok, a rock ‘n’ roll day camp.

John Pease, a previous Baltimore County Public Schools student who attended Baltimore Lab School, will use his scholarship for tuition at the University of Maryland – Baltimore County to pursue a degree in Visual Arts/Animation.

Marcquel Prescott, a Anne Arundel County Public Schools student who attends High Roads School, Prince George’s County, will use his scholarship for a driver’s education course at Statewide Driving School.

Adira Quarles, a Prince George’s County Public Schools student who attends the Frost School, will use her scholarship to attend Kahana’s Stunt and Film School.

Emily Rowe, a Prince George’s County Public Schools student who attends Kennedy Krieger High School, will use her scholarship to attend Camp Sonshine, an adventure camp.

Benjamin Shuman, a previous Cardin Scholar, from Montgomery County Public Schools who attends The Benedictine School, will use his scholarship to attend Camp Greentop, a therapeutic recreation program.

Leah Shuman, a previous Cardin Scholar, from Montgomery County Public Schools who attends The Katherine Thomas School, will use her scholarship to attend College Living Experience, a supportive college experience program.

Angelrose Serry, a previous Cardin Scholar, from Prince George’s County Public Schools who attended The Harbour School, will use her scholarship to attend Baltimore City Community College to pursue a degree in Fashion Design.

Samuel Silverman, a Frederick County Public Schools student attending Kennedy Krieger High School, will use his scholarship to attend Summit Camp.
Jonathan demonstrates how a future can be shaped by taking every advantage of the encouragement and opportunities provided by his teachers. He makes us all proud.

- Susan Holt, Director Ivymount