

21ST CENTURY
LEADERS
Georgia Youth Leadership Awards
Celebrating 20 Outstanding Youth Leaders

This year's winners include entrepreneurs, non-profit founders, philanthropists, app creators, and community advocates who truly represent the diversity of Georgia with students from Atlanta to Chickamauga, Colquitt County to Terrell County – all in high school. The nominated students were carefully chosen by a 19-member selection committee; comprised of Atlanta Business Chronicle's 40 under 40 members, 21CL Board of Directors, 21CL alumni, 21CL corporate partners and 21CL student peers. The students were honored at the *Georgia Youth Leadership Awards* on Saturday, February, 2017 at the College Football Hall of Fame in downtown Atlanta with this year's host, **WSB-TV Chief Bureau, Tony Thomas**. Through corporate sponsors, each youth leader was presented with a \$250 mini-grant.

- Cox Entertainment was my sponsor for the evening.

Skylar Nicholson

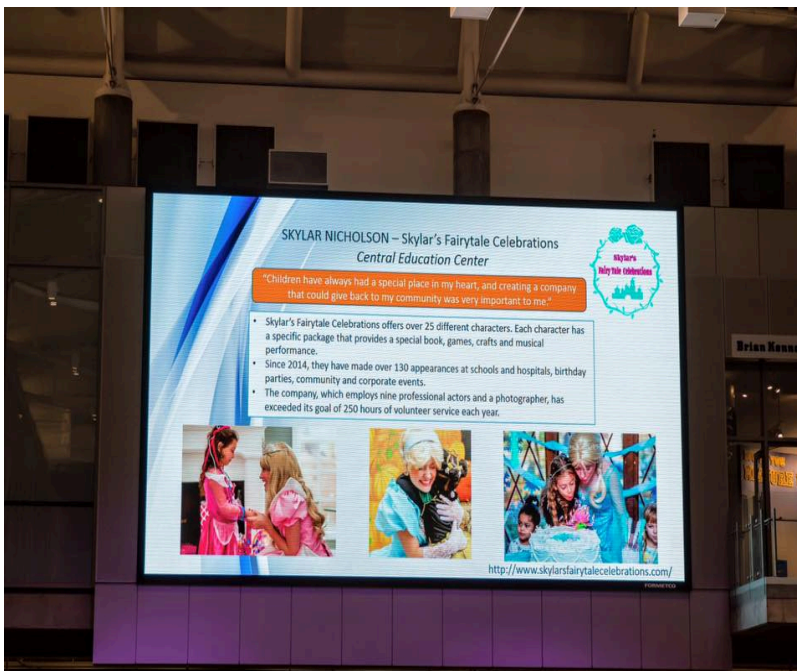


Skylar Nicholson - a senior at Central Educational Center/ Newnan High School in Coweta County, founded Skylar's Fairy Tale Celebrations, and is an active participant in creating public service announcements to seek social change in society. Her company, which was started in 2014, when she was 14 years old, provides characters for corporate events, charities, and birthday parties. With being approached to do small private events as specific characters, Nicholson saw that there was a need in her community and took a chance to create a company to fill that gap. Her company offers over 25 characters, has nine contracted professional actors, and a contracted photographer. She has provided characters for over 130 events and birthday parties since her companies start. Embarking on this journey, Nicholson learned about the importance of book keeping, scheduling, communication with clients, social media, website appearance, and employee relationships. Each character has a specific package that provides a special book, games, crafts and musical performance.

Children have always had a special place in Nicholson's heart, and creating a company that could give back to her community was very important to her. She provides characters regularly for local Hospitals, Keris Kares Foundation, Coweta County School System, Libraries, Children's Homes (Georgia Baptist Children's Home), and Ashley Park Shopping Development (Belk & Dillard's). Her company sets a goal of 250 hours of volunteer service per year. They exceed this number every year, and have completed approximately 900 hours of volunteer service since their start in 2014.

Nicholson has come to recognize that visual storytelling allows all demographics to come together and have a common ground of enjoyment. It's an optimal platform for expression and seeking social change. She creates public service announcements to shed light on important topics and local issues in her community. Most recently she created a PSA on bullying. Her PSA was aired in South Georgia on Nulink/Wow Communications, and was aired for 1 Year, 3 times a day, with a potential to reach 20,000 viewers each time. The PSA was also aired in local school systems, and at Girls and Boys Clubs of America where events were held to raise awareness regarding bullying. With partnering with the charity Family Patterns Matters, her production was funded. She incorporated 60 students as extras in her project, and found crew members from local video technical programs at Clayton State University and Central Educational Center. Nicholson has had internships with Georgia Public Broadcasting, Creative Studios of Atlanta, and NuLink Communications. Nicholson is an aspiring video production journalist, and wants to impact the world by creating intriguing video material.

Nicholson is currently a production assistant at Georgia Public Broadcasting working on the show LawMakers. She is a senior in high school at Newnan High School/ Central Educational Center. She will be graduating in May with a 4.0, and 33 hours of dual enrollment credit. Keep a look out for three Public Service Announcements highlighting local non-profits in our community Backstreet Arts, New Leaf Community Garden, and the Newnan Junior Service League.



Video Link Interview:

<https://vimeo.com/204239332>

“Only You Can Stop Bullying” PSA:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=doMLsbIEVg4>

Blog Post:

<https://www.21stcenturyleaders.org/blog/>

Websites:

<http://www.skylarsfairytalecelebrations.com/> & <https://www.skylarnicholson.com/>