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CONGRESSIONAL FOSTER YOUTH SHADOW DAY BRINGS FORMER FOSTER YOUTH VOICES TO FOREFRONT OF CAPITOL HILL - JUNE 14TH

NFYI's Annual Congressional Foster Youth Shadow Day program provides former foster youth the opportunity to engage directly with members of Congress on the most pressing issues currently facing the child welfare system.

Washington, D.C. – Former foster youth from around the country have descended upon our nation's capital for a week-long experience on Capitol Hill meeting with members of Congress to help transform lives and legislative policy as it pertains to current and former foster youth.

We invite accredited members of the press to join this year's event.

WHAT: **NFYI'S CONGRESSIONAL FOSTER YOUTH SHADOW DAY LUNCHEON**

Current and former foster youth from the 2023 Congressional Leadership Academy meet with members of Congress, public figures, and celebrities to share lived experiences in the child welfare system and to provide insight into the real-world impact of child welfare policies. The luncheon will also honor members of the 118th Congress.

WHEN: **Wednesday, June 14th, 2023, from 11:00am to 12:30pm**

WHERE: **Longworth House Building -** Ways and Means Meeting Room - *1100*
15 Independence Ave SE, Washington, DC 20515.

WHO:

This year's class features 22 young people (aged 18-30) from over 13 states who are all part of the 10-month 2023 NFYI Congressional Leadership Academy. The luncheon will feature special guest speakers, including **former Georgia State Rep. the Honorable Erica Thomas**, **the Hon. Karen Bass**, and the **Director of the DC Child and Family Services Agency Robert L. Matthews**. Attendees will also get to hear from members of this year's Congressional Leadership

Academy class and an inspiring keynote from **David Ambroz**, best-selling author of "A Place Called Home," based on his story of surviving homelessness and foster care. Awardees include **Rep. Tony Gonzales** and **Rep. Shontel Brown** **w**ho are both getting awarded "*For Fostering Legislative Change,*" as well as **Rep. Zach Nunn** "*For Fostering Visionary Change*" and **Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon** "*For Fostering Transformative Change."* **Co-Chairs of the** [**Congressional Caucus for Foster Youth**](#) **(Congress members Gwen Moore (D-WI), Don Bacon (R-NE), Sydney Kamlager (D-CA),** and **Mary Gay Scanlon (D-PA)** will also present. **Derek McGinty,** a longtime award-winning interviewer, commentator and journalist will serve as the Master of Ceremonies.

To Attend:

Select members of Congress and former foster youth delegates will be made available for media interviews. Media should RSVP to Kelsey Nelson at Kelsey.Nelson@NFYI.org to secure access to attend the event or request an interview.

Background on NFYI's Congressional Leadership Academy & Shadow Day

NFYI's Congressional Leadership Academy is an intensive 10-month program that features an action-packed weeklong experience in Washington, D.C. The first NFYI Congressional Foster Youth Shadow Day program was held in 2012.To date, the organization has hosted over 700 delegates and regional coordinators representing over two-thirds of the U.S. Delegates tag along with their members of Congress, attending events and special briefings focused on child welfare issues and joining them in the legislative chambers. Past Shadow Day speakers include **the Honorable Malcolm Kenyatta**, **culture critic Jason Lee**, **Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.)** and **actor Marcus Scribner**.

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About NFYI: *Launched in 2012,* **National Foster Youth Institute** *was created to organize foster youth and families, foster care alumni, and allies across the country to mobilize around transforming the child welfare system. NFYI annually engages over 250 current and former foster youth across the U.S.*

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