

Local Student Receives Citation from Councilmember

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Andrew Charan (middle) received a citation from Councilman Miller at the LTW Awards Ceremony.

Andrew Charan, a recent graduate of Young Adult Borough Center/Learning to Work program at John Adams High School in South Ozone Park, received a citation from Councilman I. Daneek Miller at the LTW awards ceremony on Monday May 15.

The YABC/LTW program comes from a partnership that Queens Community House has with the Dept. of Education. YABC are centers that assist high school students who are at a risk for dropping out of school stay and graduate high school. The mission of John Adams YABC is to provide a community that recognizes and supports each person's differences. The YABC offers morning, evening, and afternoon programs six days a week for students.

LTW is an extension of the YABC program. The LTW is a program which allows students in the YABC programs to participate in a 15 week paid internship as a way to prepare them for their future careers. Students have participated in internship sites that have been nonprofit, for profit and government associations all over the city.

This year QCH placed LTW students at more than 30 worksites throughout the borough. Charan was one of the students placed at an internship, which was when he had his first encounter with Miller. Andrew was able to secure an internship at the Councilman's office.

As an intern, Charan worked one-on-one with the District Director's office. He worked on managing constituents services. According to Candace Prince-Modeste, Miller's Chief of Staff, Charan cared so much about the people he was helping.

Prince-Modeste said that Charan got easily frustrated when he was not able to fully help others to the best of his abilities and when he did not get the results that he wanted.

"He seemed to take a keen interest in helping people," Prince-Modeste said.

It was the keen interest he had in his work, which made Councilman Miller take an interest in him. Prince-Modeste added that the Councilman saw that Charan went above and beyond and did not want to send him off like he was any other intern. This was part of the reason that the Councilman sent him off with a citation at the LTW awards ceremony.

For Charan, the internship was an unforgettable experience that he will take with him to all his future endeavors.

"This has been an experience that I will never forget," Charan said. "I know that this opportunity will help me in other areas of my life."