



Business and
Professional
Women/Raleigh

BPW/RALEIGH YOUNG CAREERIST PROGRAM FACT SHEET

MISSION

The **Virginia Allan Young Careerist Program** is a high profile Business and Professional Women program that recognizes and celebrates the accomplishments of successful individuals.

VISION

The **Virginia Allan Young Careerist Program** provides training, leadership and development skills. The program introduces participants to Business and Professional Women and offers unique learning opportunities for personal and professional growth and leadership experiences through participation in networking, public speaking, interviewing, and group activities.

BACKGROUND

In 1964, Virginia Allan, BPW/USA President, envisioned a mutually beneficial partnership between young working adults and BPW. President Allan's commitment to the development and the careers of younger women and men led her to spearhead the formation of the Young Careerist Program.

The program, renamed The Virginia Allan Young Careerist Program in 2001 in honor of President Allan, hosts state foundation Young Careerist Representatives who participate at the BPW/NC annual conference in a venue of networking, public speaking, interviews, group activities, and workshops. The selection process begins with competition at the local levels and then progresses to the state level, where a representative is chosen during a statewide event, usually the state's midyear board meeting or the annual conference.

State Young Careerist Representatives are encouraged to attend the BPW/NC annual conference and participate with representatives from all over North Carolina. A BPW/NC Representative is selected based on panel judging in categories including a speech, personal interview or group interview/presentation, and a biographical sketch with essay questions. Young Careerist Representatives are introduced to the conference body and honored throughout the BPW/NC Conference with special recognition and activities. Young Careerists are eligible to participate in all conference activities.

Why does BPW hold this event annually?

- To Keep Abreast of Issues Facing Individuals in the Early Stages of Their Careers
- To Market BPW to Prospective Members
- To Increase Membership in BPW
- To Increase Visibility

Why should you participate?

Opportunities for Personal and Professional Development

Participation in the Young Careerist competition provides opportunities to practice public speaking, interviewing, group interaction, and resume writing. The Young Careerist Representatives who attend the BPW/NC annual conference are provided additional opportunities for personal and professional development through networking, informative workshops, presentations and interactive group activities with young professionals from all over North Carolina.

Opportunities for Networking

The Young Careerist Program allows participants to meet other candidates, get acquainted with BPW members, and learn more about the benefits of BPW. Networking is a powerful tool, and it is a hallmark of the BPW organization.

Opportunities to Learn About the Issues

Participation in the Young Careerist Program offers the opportunity for candidates to learn more about issues of concern to workingwomen, become familiar with the mission and vision of BPW, acquire knowledge about state and national legislative platforms and other BPW advocacy issues, and interact with and engage in dialogue with BPW members.

Opportunities for Visibility

Young Careerist participants can receive enhanced visibility through media and publicity in the community and through their employers. Successful Young Careerist Programs incorporate publicity and press in promoting the program and the candidates.

Opportunities to Make a Difference

By joining BPW, a Young Careerist candidate becomes part of a nationwide network dedicated to achieving equity for workingwomen. She/he can enjoy the unique benefits of membership. She/he can mentor and be mentored. She/he can feel the strength of blending her/his voice with others as the leading advocate for workingwomen.

What are the criteria to participate?

To be eligible, a person must:

- o be between the ages of 21 and 35, inclusive, by July 31st following the first competition in which she/he participates;
- o be or have been employed in business or the professions with at least one (1) year of full-time work experience;
- o be living, working, training or continuing her/his education in the area served by the sponsoring Club conducting the program; and
- o be a BPW member in good standing (*Note: A Young Careerist Candidate at the local level does not need to be a BPW member before participating. If selected as the Raleigh Young Careerist, you will be given a one year membership to BPW at no cost to you.*)
- o sign the legislative platform agreement. A Young Careerist candidate must review the BPW legislative platform and pledge that she/he will not speak against platform items in her/his capacity as Young Careerist Representative, if selected.
- o Participate in the Raleigh BPW event, Tuesday, March 27: 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Brier Creek Country Club. (All meeting registration fees will be paid for you. There is no cost to participating. Meeting may run up to 30 minutes more depending on number of candidates in the competition.)
- o If selected as the Raleigh Young Careerist (Club level), agree to participate in the State Level Young Careerist program. (All meeting registration fees will be paid for you. There is no cost to participating.)