



January 2012

Welcome to the Raleigh Business and Professional Women (BPW) Young Careerist Program! The Young Careerist Program is a rewarding program that benefits you as well as the BPW organization. The Raleigh Young Careerist Event will be held at our monthly dinner meeting, Tuesday, March 27, 2012, at the Brier Creek Country Club venue. Participants will arrive at 5:00 p.m. to begin the interview process, followed by the dinner meeting and speech presentations. The program is completed by 8:00 p.m., with the announcement of the person selected as the Raleigh BPW Young Careerist. That person will represent the Raleigh Club at the State level event during the June 22/23 State Conference in Hickory, NC.

We know this will be a memorable and rewarding experience for you.

**To be eligible to participate in the competition, you must:**

- o be between the ages of 21 and 35, inclusive, by July 31st following the first competition in which you participate;
- o be or have been employed in business or the profession with at least one (1) year of full-time work experience;
- o be living, working, training or continuing your education in the area served by the sponsoring Club conducting the program; and
- o sign the **YC Candidate Agreement Form** found on the BPW/Raleigh website. 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. The legislative platform can be seen within the YC Candidate Agreement Form.

**There are five phases to the March 27 event. They are as follows:**

[Biographical Information Application and Brief Essay Questions](#) (15 points)

Complete and submit by March 11, 2012.

[Personal Interview](#) (25 points)

Each candidate will be interviewed by a panel of judges at 5:15 p.m. on March 27, prior to the dinner meeting.

[Impromptu Group Interaction](#) (15 points)

Over dinner, the candidates and judges will have a roundtable discussion.

[Individual Speech Presentation](#) (35 points)

After dinner, each candidate will make an individual timed speech (4 minutes) to the BPW audience. Please choose one (1) topic from the five listed below:

1. How do you think women are being impacted by today's economic standing? How can women ensure their jobs will remain?
2. You are speaking to a friend who is in the YC age group, 21-35, about BPW and she says she does not see the need to join the organization. Convince her to join by using BPW's Legislative issues in your argument and/or benefits of BPW.

3. How has your involvement in BPW helped you personally and professionally? ...or otherwise?
4. Why is financial planning so important for a young careerist? Why is it important for women?
5. The idea of Superwoman is pervasive in our society and “having it all” is often viewed as the norm. As a mentor, what advice would you give to young women who must make conscious choices with lasting consequences?

Helping Others to Achieve (10 points)

Candidates will be judged on individual potential mentoring ability and demonstrated efforts to help others succeed, as well as leadership skills.

Although this event has historically been called a “competition,” and there is a judging component to it, we encourage you to consider this event as an opportunity to review your professional accomplishments, to focus your thoughts, and to consider your future goals. Having the opportunity to do this in front of a talented and encouraging group of professional women is valuable.

Please complete the “Biographical Information” form, along with the brief essays requested, and return it to Michelle Evans by Sunday, March 11. Please send it by e-mail to [president@bpwraleigh.org](mailto:president@bpwraleigh.org).

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Michelle Evans by email or phone at 919-724-6661.

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, March 27!

Sincerely,

Michelle Evans  
President, BPW/Raleigh  
[president@bpwraleigh.org](mailto:president@bpwraleigh.org)

## **ABOUT BPW/RALEIGH**

The Business and Professional Women's organization is the oldest organization of its kind in the world; devoted entirely and actively to the interests and needs of all employed women irrespective of their occupation and of their status. It is the only organization started by women and for women to improve women's issues. For more about BPW/Raleigh please visit [www.bpwraleigh.org](http://www.bpwraleigh.org).