



BY MGM RESORTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Monday, June 10, 2019

Photos: <http://bit.ly/MGMScholars2019>

MGM Resorts Awards Nine College Scholarships to Graduating Seniors from Yonkers Public High Schools

(Yonkers, NY) – **MGM Resorts** announced the creation of the **MGM Resorts Scholars Initiative** benefiting graduates of **Yonkers Public Schools**. On Friday, June 7, 2019, **Uri Clinton, president & chief operating officer of Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts**, was joined by **Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano** and **Superintendent of Yonkers Public Schools, Dr. Edwin M. Quezada**, as he formally announced the students selected as 2019 MGM Resorts Scholars. Also in attendance were **Senator Shelley Mayer, NYS Assembly Member Nader Sayegh, Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins on behalf of County Executive George Latimer, Council Member Corazon Pineda-Isaac, Council Member Shanae Williams, Council Member Anthony Merante**, members of the Yonkers' Board of Education, school administrators, family and friends.

Nine graduating seniors, one from each of the Yonkers Public High Schools, including VIVE/Pathways to Success, were each awarded a \$2,500 scholarship by MGM Resorts to be used towards college tuition and related expenses. The MGM Resorts Scholars were celebrated by family, friends, school administrators, and other supporters at an intimate reception held at Dolphin Restaurant in Yonkers.

"A quality education can open many doors for young people. MGM Resorts is committed to the City of Yonkers, as well as the education of our young neighbors," said President & COO of Empire City Casino, **Uri Clinton**. *"It is an honor to announce the MGM Resorts Scholars Initiative to assist one graduating student from each of Yonkers' Public High Schools with college expenses. We recognize the hard work that has gotten them this far and encourage them to continue to dedicate themselves to their studies."*

MGM Resorts values education as a key pillar of the company's corporate social responsibility efforts. In addition to scholarships such as the ones given to Yonkers Public Schools, MGM Resorts offers a Management Associate Program (MAP), which is an extensive development program for recent college graduates seeking leadership growth, as well as a robust tuition assistance program for its 80,000 employees.

"Thank you to Yonkers' newest community partner, MGM Resorts, for honoring and supporting our young people as they secure the next steps in their educational journey," said Yonkers Mayor **Mike Spano**. *"By engaging in its community with programs like this, organizations like MGM have the opportunity to invest in the their and the city's future. Congrats to all the well-deserved scholars – the sky is the limit!"*

"MGM Resorts truly understands the power of public education," said Yonkers Public Schools Superintendent, **Dr. Edwin M. Quezada**. *"This first cohort of nine (9) MGM Scholars will demonstrate with business scholarship support and personal perseverance a college degree is no longer a dream, it's within their grasp. It is about access and equity for our young people. Empire City Casino realizes the significant impact of a partnership with education and we thank them for their contributions to the City of Yonkers, its residents, and its students."*

The nine MGM Resorts Scholars of 2019 are **Citlalli H.** from Yonkers Middle High School, attending Trinity College; **David A.** from Saunders High School, attending SUNY New Paltz; **Elliot N.** from Gorton High School, attending Hunter College; **Jaylin H.** from Yonkers Montessori Academy, attending Iona College; **Kimberly P.** from Palisades Preparatory School, attending Clark Atlanta University; **Laiba A.** from VIVE/Pathways to Success, attending Westchester Community College; **Lauren K.** from Roosevelt High School, attending Howard University; **Peter C.** from Lincoln High School, attending CUNY Baruch; and **Zoe M.** from Riverside High School, attending the Art Institute of Chicago.



BY MGM RESORTS

State Senator **Shelley Mayer** said, “MGM Resorts demonstrates their commitment to the community and to the success of Yonkers youth by investing in nine scholarships for graduating seniors. Congratulations to the deserving graduating seniors on this scholarship and best wishes on future success. Thank you to MGM Resorts for investing in Yonkers’ youth with the Scholars Initiative.”

“As a NYS Assemblyman, representing the City of Yonkers/90th District, I am honored to join MGM Resorts in celebrating our students and recognizing those who have demonstrated strong academic skills, community service, and a desire to fulfill further education at notable colleges,” added Assemblyman **Nader J. Sayegh**. “I appreciate MGM Resorts for their special efforts to promote and motivate our public school students to achieve greater success.”

Westchester County Executive **George Latimer** said, “I am so pleased that MGM Resorts not only highly values higher education, but also that they are committing to helping young people in Yonkers achieve their dreams. Thank you to MGM Resorts for believing in the transformative power of education, and congratulations to these young men and women who I know will go on to make our County very proud.”

City Council President **Mike Khader** said, “I’m extremely pleased to see the creation of this initiative benefiting these deserving Yonkers Public Schools graduates. This not only demonstrates MGM Resorts’ commitment to the City of Yonkers, it shows that they recognize the fundamental value of giving back to the community. On behalf of the City Council, I thank them for their contributions, and hope that other companies looking to invest in Yonkers will follow their example of corporate social responsibility.”

“Thank you to MGM for honoring and promoting the future education of our students from Yonkers. It is always great to see local businesses partnering to help members of our community,” said City Council Majority Leader, **Michael Sabatino**.

“I am very pleased that MGM Resorts, as a new member of the Yonkers Community, is celebrating Yonkers Public School students and their academic excellence by presenting them with these scholarships,” added Council Member **Corazon Pineda-Isaac**. “This is exactly the kind of partnership that Yonkers needs, and I’m glad that MGM Resorts has taken such an active interest in our community.”

County Legislator **Christopher Johnson** said, “There are many things in this world that are ever-changing. However, the value of a good education is one thing that has remained constant. For many of us, a scholarship has been one of the ways in which we are afforded that education. I am proud of the students who are being honored today and I applaud donors like MGM who help to elevate our youth by providing them with the boost to get to the next level.”

MGM Resorts acquired Empire City Casino in Yonkers, New York in January 2019. In 2018 alone, Empire City Casino generated \$300 million for the state education fund. With a full commercial gaming license, MGM Resorts would generate even more funding for education, thus resulting in more funds for Yonkers Public Schools.

For more information on MGM Resorts’ community engagements, visit MGMResorts.com. For additional information on Empire City Casino, visit empirecitycasino.com.

###

Media Contacts:

Lindsay Salandra
Public Relations Manager, Empire City Casino
lsalandra@empirecitycasino.com

Jerilynne Fierstein
Communications Officer, Yonkers Public Schools

Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway, 810 Yonkers Avenue, Yonkers, New York 10704 914-968-4200



BY MGM RESORTS

ifierstein@yonkerspublicschools.org

About Empire City Casino

Empire City Casino is one of the largest entertainment and gaming destinations in the northeast. Featuring 5,300 of the hottest slots, electronic three card poker, blackjack, craps, roulette, baccarat and sic bo, Empire City Casino also offers guests year-round harness racing and international simulcasting; live entertainment including the best party, tribute and Latin bands; comedy, New York's hottest DJ's, and more. A plethora of dining options will satisfy even the most discerning palate with Italian cuisine at Nonno's Trattoria; fan favorite fare at The Pub; Alley 810, a craft cocktail lounge with retro bowling lanes; and convenient delicious options at Lil' Cocina and the International Food Court. Visit Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway located at 810 Yonkers Avenue (off I-87 at Central Avenue) Yonkers, NY, Westchester County, open seven days a week from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. Empire City Casino is an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of MGM Resorts International (NYSE: MGM). For more information, visit www.empirecitycasino.com or call 914.968.4200.

About MGM Resorts International

MGM Resorts International (NYSE: MGM) is an S&P 500® global entertainment company with national and international locations featuring best-in-class hotels and casinos, state-of-the-art meetings and conference spaces, incredible live and theatrical entertainment experiences, and an extensive array of restaurant, nightlife and retail offerings. MGM Resorts creates immersive, iconic experiences through its suite of Las Vegas-inspired brands. The MGM Resorts portfolio encompasses 30 unique hotel and destination gaming offerings including some of the most recognizable resort brands in the industry. Expanding throughout the U.S. and around the world, the company recently acquired the operations of Empire City Casino in New York and Hard Rock Rocksino in Ohio, which was rebranded as MGM Northfield Park. In 2018, MGM Resorts opened MGM Springfield in Massachusetts, MGM COTAI in Macau, and the first Bellagio-branded hotel in Shanghai. The 83,000 global employees of MGM Resorts are proud of their company for being recognized as one of FORTUNE® Magazine's World's Most Admired Companies®. For more information, visit us at www.mgmresorts.com.

About Yonkers Public Schools

The fourth largest district in New York, Yonkers is a vibrant learning community with a diverse population of 27,000 students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 12 across 39 schools. At 86%, Yonkers' on-time graduation rate is higher than the other "Big Five" districts in the state and above the state average. yonkerspublicschools.org