



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: June 15, 2022

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Pikesville High student honored as 2022 Maryland Rising Star Student Entrepreneur of the Year

Towson, Md. - Kelsey Parker, a junior at Pikesville High School, earned the 2022 Maryland Rising Star Student Entrepreneur of the Year award from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). She was honored during the 2022 Maryland Small Business Awards Luncheon on June 9.

Parker's product, the ThinkBlack mobile app and [website](#), is a free, interactive nationwide directory of Black-owned businesses, offering local search results, reviews, contact information, and driving directions. The mobile app is available on the App Store and the Google Play Store.

According to Parker, she launched her business, ThinkBlack, LLC, in June 2020, during the rise of the racial justice movement and after reading in The Washington Post that the number of Black business owners dropped by 41 percent during the COVID-19 pandemic. "This was alarming," she said, "and I wanted to do something to spotlight positive things in the black community."

In addition to the recognition from the SBA, Kelsey and her app have been featured on WMAR-TV and WJZ-TV. She received a Joe Manns Black Wall Street Award in 2021 from BmoreNews.com, was interviewed during the 2021 Black Engineer of the Year Award Conference, and was gifted a membership from the Pikesville Chamber of Commerce.

(Editor's note: A photo of Kelsey Parker and her AP Seminar teacher Sara Reisner accompanies this release.)

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