

**MEDIA CONTACT**

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## West Side Scholarship Recipients Complete First Week of Professional Training Toward Future Career as Barbers

*At-risk youth the first to participate in **Wahl Fade It Forward**<sup>®</sup> workforce development program inspired by celebrity barber and Joliet native Garland “G-Whiz” Fox.*

**CHICAGO, IL. (JULY 20, 2018)**

As part of a joint initiative, **Wahl Clipper Corporation**, Chicago social service organization **UCAN** and local business **His & Hers Barber School** joined forces to help at-risk West Side youth break the cycle of poverty. Four students were awarded full scholarships valued at \$6,100 each to attend classes toward becoming a professional barber.



*Photo Courtesy of Wahl Professional*

The students completed their first week of their 13-month training program at His & Hers Barber School, 5355 West Madison in Chicago. They were awarded the scholarships after successfully completing the four-week **Wahl Fade It Forward**<sup>®</sup> mentorship program with professional barbers in the community. This is the first year of the mentorship program and the scholarship awards. The company hopes to expand the program in the future.

As the world’s leading manufacturer of clippers for stylists and barbers, Sterling, IL-based Wahl Clipper Corporation was inspired in part by celebrity barber Garland “G-Whiz” Fox to create a grassroots program to aid youth in need and to celebrate the company’s 100-year anniversary in 2019. Joliet, IL native, Garland “G-Whiz” Fox is a Wahl Education & Artistic Team Member. Once homeless, Fox credits becoming a barber as the turning point in improving his life.

“The **Wahl Fade It Forward**<sup>®</sup> program was created when I and a few other people began thinking about what we could do to give back to the community as a clipper company for all the years that we’ve been in business,” says Fox. “With me being a product of the community, we thought, why not go to the ‘hood, where everything is happening, and find some at-risk youth that no one is willing to give a chance and just take them and give them

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an opportunity to do things that they never thought they could do.”

For 23 year old West Side, Chicago student Sebastian Moore graduating school and becoming a licensed, professional barber is the first step toward becoming a business owner in the community in which he grew up.

“A year from now I see myself traveling, building my clientele before I open up an actual physical flagship location. Probably on the south side of the city or the east side of the city, says Moore. “To see other barbers turn into owners/operators after graduating through the same system that I’m about to go through is extremely motivating. It’s like, ‘I can do this.’”

The students hope to graduate August 2019.

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**About Wahl Clipper Corporation**

*Since 1919, with the invention of the first practical electric hair clipper, Wahl Clipper Corporation has been the leader in the professional and home grooming category. Today, with over 2,500 employees worldwide, Wahl is proud to carry forward the tradition of innovation and superior customer service that was created by Leo J. Wahl. Headquartered in Sterling, Illinois, Wahl distributes to 176 countries and has eight global manufacturing facilities as well as 25 sales offices. At Wahl, we are proud of our heritage of excellence as well as our remarkable list of groundbreaking innovations for the present and future for the global market. Visit [www.wahlpro.com](http://www.wahlpro.com) for more details.*

**About UCAN**

*UCAN is one of Chicago’s oldest, yet most innovative, social services organization that helps builds strong youth and families through compassionate healing, education and empowerment. For more than 149 years, UCAN has been a sanctuary for youth who have suffered trauma and neglect through a clinical approach to healing that is united, culturally relevant and consistent. Our vision is youth who have suffered trauma can become our future leaders. UCAN serves over 13,000 youth and families annually through an integrated continuum of services. UCAN meets the changing needs of Chicagoland’s at-risk youth by transitioning them to programs as their needs change. As a culturally proficient organization, UCAN integrates diversity and inclusion into our operations to engage staff, partners, peers and supporters. Our progressive way of doing business embraces cultural differences, which helps UCAN act as a change agent and challenge the status quo.*



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**About His & Hers Barber School**

*His & Hers Barber School currently offers a 1,500-hour program that prepares students for their licensing examination and entry-level careers in the barbering industry. Their goal is to graduate productive members of the barbering industry, who are invaluable assets to employees in the workforce. The barbering program at His & Hers Barber School offers hands-on interactive classes and teaches the “lost art of shaving” through demonstrations, live models, audio visual aids and basic classroom instruction: combining practical applications with barbering theory. His & Hers Barber School employs highly skilled and experienced instructors who combine the latest teaching techniques with a wealth of knowledge and state-of-the-art technology.*