**About Willowbrook senior Eric Veal Jr.**

**Academic achievements:**

* Completed eight Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level courses
* Completed a multitude of honors courses
* Recognized as an AP Scholar
* Named to the Distinction Honor Roll each semester of his high school career
* Inductee of the National Honor Society, where he served as Sergeant at Arms his junior year and is Vice-President this year
* Inductee of the National English Honor Society
* Inductee of the Math Honor Society
* Inductee of the Tri-M (Modern Music Masters) Honor Society
* Serves as President of Civitas (Willowbrook’s Social Studies Honor Society)
* Serves as President of Thespians (Willowbrook’s Theatre Honor Society)
* Recipient of the Outstanding Freshman Award
* Recipient of the Human Relations Award (students who receive this award are recognized for their attention to cultural diversity and human dignity and for reinforcing that behavior in all they do for Willowbrook and surrounding communities)
* Named as an Outstanding Student in the Social Studies Department
* Named as a 2022 Coca-Cola Scholar (read more at <https://dupage88.net/site/page/14756>)

**Involvement at Willowbrook:**

* Assisted with the development of two courses at District 88 (United States History: American Mosaic and Equity and Justice in America), resulting in students being able to earn college credit with Elmhurst University for the second course
* Cofounder and cohost of The Brook Channel, Willowbrook’s student news channel
* Helped coordinate a memorial in honor of Sandra Bland (Willowbrook alumna, class of 2005, who passed away on July 13, 2015)
* Helped increase involvement in and awareness of Willowbrook’s Black Organization for Student Success (BOSS)
* Member of Willowbrook’s Youth Equity Stewardship (YES!) program, which strives to prepare students to recognize and learn from the diversity around them
* Volunteer at events such as Open House, Curriculum Showcase, Eighth-Grade Parent Night and Graduation
* Ambassador to assist students who transfer to Willowbrook
* Teacher Assistant in the Social Studies Department
* Member of the Principal and Superintendent leadership teams
* Member of the Prom Planning Committee
* Facilitator of Restorative Justice and Listening Circles
* New Beginnings Leader (a program where upperclassmen mentor freshmen and show them what it means to be a Willowbrook Warrior and assist them in adjusting to high school)
* PE Leader
* Relay For Life organizer (an event that raises funds for the American Cancer Society)
* Has participated in more than 22 clubs during his high school career

**Community and state-level involvement:**

* Two-year member of the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Student Advisory Council (SAC), serving as President this year
* Appointed by the ISBE to sit on a task force that is developing resource materials to support the Jett Hawkins Law, which bans discrimination in schools for hairstyles historically associated with race, ethnicity, or hair texture
* Appointed to the ISBE Educational Equity Task Force (Veal will be the first student to co-chair a legislatively mandated task force)
* Regular presenter and contributor at the local, state and national levels to raise awareness and increase student voice related to race, equity and inclusion, including with Operation PUSH, Loyola University Chicago, White Privilege Symposium and Black Lives Matter
* Helped organize a student-led demonstration for race and equity
* Volunteers with Feed My Starving Children and the food pantry at his local church