

2024 Scholarship Program and Recognitions



WELCOME!

LEAP FORWARD, INC. 2024 SCHOLARSHIP CEREMONY

July 14, 2024

A Deeper Look, WE SEE YOU.

PROGRAM

MUSICAL PRE-SHOW SELECTIONS Brother Kenneth McNeil III				
MASTER OF CEREMONY Brother Jahvon Gordon				
OPENING PRAYER Rev. Dr. Dana Jones, Mt. Olive United Methodist Church				
NEGRO NATIONAL ANTHEMEveryone				
REMARKS Rhonda Thomas, LEAP Forward, Inc. President and Founder				
MUSICAL SELECTION Artist, Farnetta Baker				
INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKERRhonda Thomas, LEAP Forward, Inc.				
MESSAGE Dr. Carl B. Mack (Author, Lecturer, Civil Rights Activist, Executive Director (Retired))				
MUSICAL SELECTION Artist, Farnetta Baker				
PRESENTATION OF 2024 SCHOLARS				
STUDENT REFLECTIONS				
CLOSING REMARKS Kim Thomas, Scholarship Reception Chair				
CLOSING PRAYER Rev. Dr. Dana Jones, Mt. Olive United Methodist Church				

Refreshments - Lower Level

2024 RECIPIENTS (SCHOLARS)



Bill & Blanche Finch Memorial Scholarship

Caila Strickland Major: Nursing Towson University



Clifton Morsell & Randolph Adams Memorial Scholarship

Sanaa Gray Major: Business Administration

Bowie State University



Clifton Morsell & Randolph Adams Memorial Scholarship

Lauren McNair Major: Biology Howard University



Clifton Morsell & Randolph Adams Memorial Scholarship

Seth Leslie Major: Computer Science University of Maryland, Baltimore County



Clifton Morsell & Randolph Adams Memorial Scholarship

Laila Mitchell

Major: Neuroscience

St. Mary's College
of Maryland



Clyde & Olive Sealey Memorial Scholarship

Sydney Contee Major: Mechanical Engineering Penn State



Dorothy Mae Smith Memorial Scholarship

Tajanay Madison-Berrain Major: Nursing (BSN) Coppin State University



Earl Thorne Memorial Scholarship

Makaya Lancaster Major: Criminology Howard University



Elizabeth Simms Memorial Scholarship

Cianna Stanley

Major: Political Science

Morgan State University



Gail E. Patterson Memorial Scholarship

Christian Brown
Major: Law, Society, &
Policy
Syracuse University



George & Geneva Green Harrod Memorial Scholarship

Dataya Resenois Major: Health Science Howard University



George & Geneva Green Harrod Memorial Scholarship

Saniyah Payne Major: Health Education Morgan State University



George & Geneva Green Harrod Memorial Scholarship

Derek Brown Major: Psychology St. Mary's College of Maryland



Gladys Henson Memorial Scholarship

Keyona Tharpe Major: Business Administration North Carolina Central University



Gladys Henson Memorial Scholarship

Cori Davis

Major: Master of Architecture

Morgan State University



Glenda Bell Boyd Memorial Scholarship

Alanna Bell Major: Sociology College of Southern Maryland



Gloria Mae Gross Memorial Scholarship

Kennedi Jones Major: Computer Science Hood College



Gloria Mae Gross Memorial Scholarship

Alissa Collins

Major: Mechanical
Engineering

Liberty University



Gloria Mae Gross Memorial Scholarship

Tristan Stowe Major: Nursing West Virginia University



Grace Parker Memorial Scholarship

Iyan Tookes Major: Computer Science North Carolina A&T State University



Grace Parker Memorial Scholarship

Christian Rose

Major: Music Performance
Oakwood University

2024 RECIPIENTS (SCHOLARS)



Grace Parker Memorial Scholarship Adriana Brothers Major: Nursing Bowie State University



Iris Anne Harris Memorial Scholarship Lailah Toppin Major: Music Education Towson University



Joan Gray Butler Memorial Scholarship Randolph Hart IV Major: Criminal Justice Lincoln University of PA



Lawrence Myers
Memorial Scholarship
Haly Bermudez
Major: Nursing
George Mason University



MacArthur Jones Memorial Scholarship Jaron Scott Major: Mathematics & Education Hampton University



Marilyn Preston Killingham Memerial Scholarship Kennedy Freeman Major: Architectural Engineering North Carolina A&T State University



Martin Barnes Memorial Scholarship Janyia Freeman Major: Sports Management Clark Atlanta University



Martin Barnes
Memorial Scholarship
Sydnic Collins
Major: Strategic
Communications
Howard University



Martin Barnes Memorial Scholarship Egypt Butler Major: Information Science University of Maryland, College Park



Michael J. Moore Memorial Scholarship Taliyah Washington Major: Business Administration Morgan State University



Nannie Pearl Cade Memorial Scholarship Vidal Bickersteth Major: Computer Science University of Maryland, Baltimore County



Raymond Harris
Memorial Scholarship
Gavin Goldring
Major: Electrical
Engineering
Catholic University
of America



Raymond Harris Memorial Scholarship Jalon Bain Major: Business College of Southern Maryland



Ruth Reid Memorial Scholarship Jada Brooks Major: Secondary Education College of Southern Maryland



Ruthann Hicks Memorial Scholarship Rebekah Bobo Major: Music Morgan State University



Ruthann Hicks Memorial Scholarship Lauryn Ridley Major: Medicine University of Virginia School of Medicine



Ruthann Hicks Memorial Scholarship Ebun-Oluwa Popoola Major: Human Performance Howard University



Bertram Pernell Bell Memorial Scholarship Christopher Davis Major; Journalism & Economics Syracuse University



(Memorial) & Clyde Jones Scholarship Micah Estep Major: American Sign Language Interpreting Bloomsburg University

Carrie Bertha Jones



Evelyn Irvine
Memorial Scholarship
Jocelyn Berry
Major: Electronic Media &
Film
Towson University

2024 RECIPIENTS (SCHOLARS)



Hamilton Sr. & Alice Parran Memorial Scholarship

Anita Pope

Major: Information Technology

Towson University



Hamilton Sr. & Alice Parran Memorial Scholarship

Tory Ridgeway

Major: Aerospace Engineering Embry Riddle Aeronautical

University



Hamilton Sr. & Alice Parran Memorial Scholarship

Madison Harris

Major: Business

Bowie State University



The MasterMind
Group Scholarship

Sashah Wilson-Thompson

Major: Computer Engineering
University of Connecticut



The Thomas Family Scholarship

Mirakohl Coates

Major: Broadcasting Journalism/Media Communications

Howard University



The Victoria Lodge #71 Scholarship

Taylor Webster

Major: Biology Spelman College

Speiman C



Violet Parker Memorial Scholarship

Tracey Montilus

Major: Sociology & Anthropology/ Criminal Justice

Towson University



Violet Parker Memorial Scholarship

Essahe Barber
Major: International

Studies
Hampton University



Violet Parker Memorial Scholarship

Melita Nicholas

Major: Biology

Stevenson University



Vivian Lemort Rogers Memorial Scholarship

Erin Gibson

Major: Nursing

Morgan State University



Wallace Leeper Memorial Scholarship

DeShaun Berry

Major: Criminal Justice

University of Maryland, Eastern Shore



Wallace Leeper Memorial Scholarship

Myles Selby

Major: Communications

Delaware State University



Wallace Leeper Memorial Scholarship

Kamaal Guzeh

Major: Management and Business Administration

Morgan State University



Wallace Leeper Memorial Scholarship

Tiara Baker

Major: Public Health

North Carolina Central University



Wilson Ennis Sr. Memorial Scholarship

Destiny Lewis

Major: Chemistry

Bowie State University



Wilson Ennis Sr. Memorial Scholarship

Sean Manley

Major: Chemical Engineering

Howard University



Wilson Ennis Sr. Memorial Scholarship

Kevin Wilkerson

Major: Industrial

Engineering

Morgan State University

Thank you to the families, organizations, and donors that helped make this possible!

A special thanks to our scholarship reception committee: Kim Thomas, Trayonna Hutchins, and Dorien Minor.

A special thanks to our scholarship committee: Michelle Taylor and Jessica Brooks.

A special thanks to our event support committee: Morgan Anderson, Tammie Owens, Sherri Barber, Gwen Adams and Darlene Harrod.

Ruthann Hicks Memorial Scholarship



Ruthann Hicks was born August 8th, 1956 in Calvert County, Maryland to Catherine and Paul Harris. Ruthann was one of seven children who quickly came to show aptitude in English, complex mathematics, and a variety of athletic pursuits throughout her high school career. Ruthann worked the majority of her career at Giant Grocery Store in Prince Frederick, MD. wherein she became a pivotal, familiar face of the community. She is known for imparting words of wisdom and faith to customers who came to her in times of duress. Ruthann had three children, and four grandchildren who love her dearly. Ruthann was an avid member of her church at Mt. Gethsemane Holiness Church working in many roles, most notably as Head Missionary of the Missionary Board. During her time as head missionary, the mothers of the church significantly increased their community presence in the Calvert County Nursing Home and Homeless shelters. Ruthann brought a sense of community, purpose, and drive to the missionary board that catalyzed its impact. Ruthann passed away on November 2nd, 2022 after a four-year battle with lung cancer. During her battle, Ruthann never lost her faith and praise. Until the last moment of her life she praised God and meditated on his word, most specifically Psalm 27:4 "One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple."



Launching Educational Assistance Programs Forward (LEAP Forward), INC. is a not-for-profit 501C(3) organization whose mission is to encourage disadvantaged underrepresented students to Learn, Excel, Achieve, Perform, Explore and Rise!

Clyde & Olive Sealey MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Clyde and Olive Sealey are the parents of Sonia Hinds, Nicole Antoine and Rogelio Sealey. Clyde and Olive were born and raised in Panama, Central America. Clyde and Olive's parents migrated from the West Indies to Panama to work on the construction of the Panama Canal. Clyde retired in 1970 after 49 years of service as a clerk for the Panama Canal Commission. Clyde was soft spoken and very dedicated to his wife and children. Olive worked as a nursing assistant at Gorgas Hospital in Panama and was also very dedicated to Clyde and her children.



Both Clyde and Olive migrated to the United States in 1970 where they enjoyed family and friends. In 1999 they moved to Calvert County to be with their daughter Sonia Hinds. Both Olive and Clyde were faithful members of the Pines Senior Center where they had many friends. Olive and Clyde were wonderful parents and I truly miss them.





The honoree, for which this scholarship is named, was the youngest of 14 children born to the late Andrew J., Sr. and Georgiana L. Barnes on January 21, 1956. Martin received his primary and secondary education in the Diocese of Washington, D.C. Catholic Schools. He graduated from Holy Comforter - Saint Cyprian (HCSC) Catholic School in June, 1969 and completed Mackin High School in May, 1973. For the next two years, Martin continued his education at Howard University.

During his career, Martin was employed in several capacities. His final occupation was Assistant Manager at a Washington, D.C. area restaurant until his illness curtailed his career.

Martin, like too many other young persons, became involved in the recreational use of drugs. When this was discovered, Martin was convinced to enter a rehabilitation center. With the support and prayers of his biological and Church families, Martin successfully overcame his drug dependency. Four years after his successful drug treatment, Martin was diagnosed as HIV-positive.

Martin became a champion in the struggle to help others as he was supported. He was an active member of the HCSC Community Action Group, Financial Secretary of the HCSC Usher Board, a member of Promise Keepers, and a founding member of the Strong Men of God, originally based at HCSC. In his role as a member of the Strong Men of God, Martin was one of the initiators of the weekly sessions responsible for spreading God's Word as it relates to everyday life. This group assisted all men, especially those battling drug and alcohol abuse and homelessness.

With determination, Martin made tremendous strides in his life. His faith sustained him through many difficult phases of his illness. His changes in life served as an inspiration to many childhood friends who had taken a wrong turn on the road of life. Most say, "Martin was a friend on whom you could depend." Many were amazed at his brilliance and patience. He would spend hours with others discussing philosophy, listening, and advising. He interceded in many difficult situations on behalf of those he called "friend." However, he refused to accept 'repayment' for his many acts of kindness, replying "My Father will repay me for all the good deeds I've done."

Martin succumbed to his illness on August 8, 1997 at the early age of 41. To honor his life, his family and friends established the Martin Barnes Scholarship Fund. The purpose of the Scholarship Fund is to assist the recipients in their educational journey and encourage them to commit their lives to the type of community service that was an integral part of Martin's life.



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Joan G. Butler *Memorial Scholarship*

Joan G. Butler was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. She passed from this life into the unfiltered presence of God on Saturday, June 18, 2022 at the age of 68. She was born to John and Charlotte Gray on September 7, 1953 in Port Republic, Maryland. Joan graduated from Calvert County Senior High, part of the class of '71 where she served as the Senior Class President. She married her high school sweetheart Gordon Butler on November 13, 1971. Their children are Lisa Hounshell, Gordon Butler II (Kati), and Portia Allen (Clinton). Joan was an Army wife of 20 years moving to multiple duty stations along the way. She embodied the Tammy Wynette song and stood by her man. After her husband's military retirement, Joan began serving alongside him in ministry.

As a pastor's wife, she loved Jesus and people well. Joan worked at Southwestern Assemblies of God University on three different occasions, totaling 16 years of service. She retired from SAGU as the Director of Accounts Receivable in May 2015. She continued to be a part of the SAGU pride as a Board of Regents member and an officer in the Southwestern Women's Auxiliary. Working at SAGU was more than a job for Joan, it was a place of ministry and friendships that became like family. Praying for and with others was a regular part of Joan's life. In her last position before retiring from SAGU, she often prayed with students about their school finances. One of those occasions was with a student that would need to withdraw from school if the account was not paid. Joan asked the student if they believed in miracles and prayed with her. Long story short, the bill was paid by a couple who had recently lost a child. They were working through their grief by being a blessing to other children. It would be easy to assign this to coincidence, but as a person of faith, Joan Butler would tell you, God intervenes in the lives of people often through other people.

A DEEPER LOOK, WE SEE YOU.

LEAP Forward thanks our families, donors, sponsors, and patrons for their scholarship support. It takes a village, and we are so glad to have you as a part of the village to invest in our scholars' futures. Thank you and we see you too. Giving back and making an impact.

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Summa Cum Laude
Florida State University



Seth R. Pickett Greenbrier High School, GA



Jashawn Johnson Potomac High School, VA



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WE ARE SO HAPPY TO SUPPORT LEAP FORWARD, INC. WE APPRECIATE YOUR SERVICE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY!

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CONGRATULATIONS

to LEAP Forward, Inc. on celebrating 23 Years of Service!

JMA SOLUTIONS is an award-winning Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned and Woman-Owned management consultancy headquartered in Washington, DC. We are passionate about helping others and strengthening the community where we live and work. We believe that true success begins with giving, which is why we support LEAP Forward Inc. and many other local and national organizations.

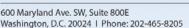
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DEVELOP*CONNECT*ACHIEVE

The Patuxent Partnership (TPP) is a non-profit member organization that fosters collaboration between government, industry and academia to advance education through STEM-based initiatives; to advance technology through speaker programs, forums, and networking; to advance science and technology transfer through the exchange of ideas, information, and data related to technologies; and to increase workforce development through an array of initiatives like SoMD 2030.

SoMD 2030, a collaborative effort funded by the NAWCAD is focused on building up our STEM pipeline, increasing career opportunities, and expanding partnerships, connecting talented students with paid apprenticeships and internships in southern MD.

We support STEM activities such as STEM-ING, the Maryland Junior Science & Humanities Symposium, Tech Jobs Rule, and we offer a FULL Two year scholarship to CSM Pathways to Engineering. See our STEM-Link website and SOMD 2030 link for news STEM news.

paxpartnership.org | stem-link.org | paxpartnership.org/tech-jobs-rule | jshs.org/region/maryland https://paxpartnership.org/somd-2030-workforce/https://paxpartnership.org/tpp-event/the-patuxent-partnership-tpp-pathways-scholarship

THE PATUXENT PARTNERSHIP

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Support our Speaker, Dr. Mack at www.blackheritagedays.com

Lift Every Voice and Sing

James Weldon Johnson, 1871 – 1938

Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaving ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,

Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,

Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,

Bitter the chast'ning rod,

Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;

Yet with a steady beat,

Have not our weary feet

Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.

We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,

Out from the gloomy past,

Till now we stand at last

Where the white gleams of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,

God of our silent tears,

Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;

Thou who hast by Thy might,

Led us into the light,

Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,

Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;

Shadowed beneath Thy hand,

May we forever stand,

True to our God,

True to our native land.



How to Reach Us?

Launching Educational Assistance Programs Forward, Inc.

LEAP Forward, Inc.

P.O. Box 373

Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Website: www.leapforwardinc.org

Email: leapforwardinc@yahoo.com Phone: 301.509.3872

Facebook: leapforwardinc2016

Twitter: @leapforwardleap Instagram: #leapforward2

National Society of Black Engineers Jr Chapter - Creative and Striving Hard to Succeed

Website: www.cashnsbejr.com

Facebook: Calvert County NSBE Jr. CASH

Email: Cash nsbejr@yahoo.com

Destined4Success

Email: D4successadvisor@gmail.com

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leapforwardinc@yahoo.com—Paypal Donation

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Zelle: leapforwardinc@yahoo.com (301 337 9660)

Federal Employees Combined Federal Campaign CFC# 91127—Show Your Love

Maryland State Employees Charitable Contributions - 52-2169397

By Check to LEAP Forward Inc. and Mail to P.O. Box above

United Way - Organization Partner ID# 11193

THANK YOU!