

# BLACK COLLEGE TODAY

For Today's Black College Students  
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March/April  
2021

BLACK COLLEGE TODAY

PROUDLY PRESENTS

BLACK COLLEGE 2020 - 2021



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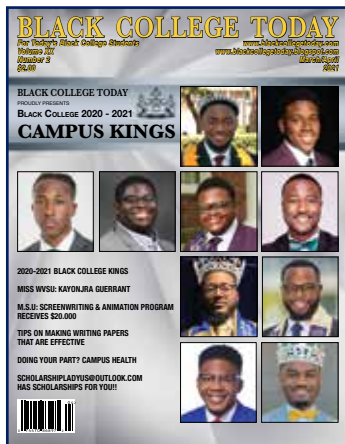


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# CONTENTS



# FEATURES

- 4 DID YOU KNOW**  
The New Year Is Here And So Is The Coronavirus  
*by James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.*
- 6 SPOKE N'HEARD**  
Questions (The Point Is...?)  
*by Dana Rettig*
- 8 UNIVERSITIES**  
Miss West Virginia State University  
Kayonjra Guerrant  
*by Dani'e Jones*
- 12 UNIVERSITIES**  
Swan Students And Faculty Lend Artistry To Critically Acclaimed Animated Netflix Short 'Cops And Robbers'
- 16 HEALTH**  
Doing Your Part? Campus Health  
*by Crystal Styles*
- 18 BEAUTY**  
Wash Day Without the Wear
- 20 EDUCATIONAL**  
Tips To Make Writing Papers That Are Effective  
*by Felicia Durden*
- 22 HEALTH**  
Health 101: Sound Healing  
*by Jessica Miller*

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## 24 HEALTH

Mental Bandwidth Recovery  
Amidst A Pandemic  
*by Yolanda Christophe, Ph.D.*

## 26 SCHOLARSHIPS

"Hot Scholarships For The Month"  
*by Carla M. Dickenson*

## 30 EDUCATIONAL

Did Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.  
See You From His Mountaintop View?  
*by Robin Kegler*

## 34 UNIVERSITIES

Hampton University Scripps Howard  
School Of Journalism And  
Communications Announces New  
Partnership With NBCUniverssal  
News Group

## 35 UNIVERSITIES

Central State University-Department  
Of Mathematics And Computer  
Science Has Been Awarded A  
Department Of Education Grant For  
Improving Mathematics Instruction  
For Steam

## 38 BLACK COLLEGE 2020-2021 CAMPUS KINGS

## 46 UNIVERSITIES

Spelman Students Benefit From  
Goldman Sachs Commitment To  
Historically Black Colleges And  
Universities

## 48 UNIVERSITIES

Farm To Table

## 50 UNIVERSITIES

NCCU Accord Research On COVID-19  
Vaccine Hesitancy Informs North  
Carolina's Strategy For Equitable  
Outreach And Distribution

## 51 UNIVERSITIES

Wiley College Develops Graduate  
School Partnership With Prairie View  
A&M University

## 52 SCHOLARSHIP

Butler and Sherrer Named Recipients  
Of The 431 Exchange Winter 2021  
Scholarship

## 53 UNIVERSITIES

University of Virgin Islands  
Communication Students Establish  
The First NABJ Student Chapter  
In The Caribbean

## 54 ENTERTAINMENT

What's Hot On The Net!  
*by Steven M. Mootry, II*

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# THE NEW YEAR IS HERE AND SO IS THE CORONAVIRUS

By Dr. James B. Ewers Jr.

We have probably used the time-honored expression, out with the old and in with the new on more than one occasion. However, this axiom in my opinion has taken on a stronger meaning this year.

The consensus is that 2020 was a rough 12 months. In so many respects, our traditional institutions were maligned and marginalized. Standards of excellence were breached, and promises were not kept. COVID-19 was the culprit.

Our colleges and universities were caught in this pandemic. The fall semester for most schools was an on again and off again affair. The coronavirus made keeping open colleges a distinct liability, so students were sent home and in person learning suddenly stopped. HBCUs and PWIs alike had to find alternative ways of providing services.

Zoom calls and other forms of technology were used to give students the teaching, guidance and counseling they needed.

HBCU athletics were also adversely affected. No football games and thus no homecomings. Alumni at our schools were unable to go back and to have good times on the “block” again.

Recently, spring sports were also cancelled. That meant tennis, golf and track and field were put on the shelf.

Now the question at the inquiry desk is when will school re-open? There is no clear answer. College leaders will have to make their decisions based upon

guidance from health officials at all levels.

If colleges are to open in the fall, precautions will have to be taken. For example, mask wearing will be with us for a while as will washing our hands and being socially distanced.

As college students whether you are on or off campus, you will have to make some adjustments. The college leadership will be clear about the regulations and will give you the appropriate guidance. They want you to succeed.

The most important objective for you is to keep your focus on graduating from college. Life will always have some roadblocks. Just like the song lyrics go, that’s just the way it is. Just go around them and make another path. Success is waiting on you.

While we ushered in the new year, COVID-19 ushered itself in too. This virus will be here for most of this year. That is a dire prediction, but that is my opinion. The New York Times reports that over 4.2 million people here have received a dose of the vaccine. This falls short of the federal projection of 20 million people.

I believe distribution of the vaccine and a reluctance to take it are some stumbling blocks. States are receiving different amounts and sending them to different locations. At this moment, it is up to the states to regulate the distribution.

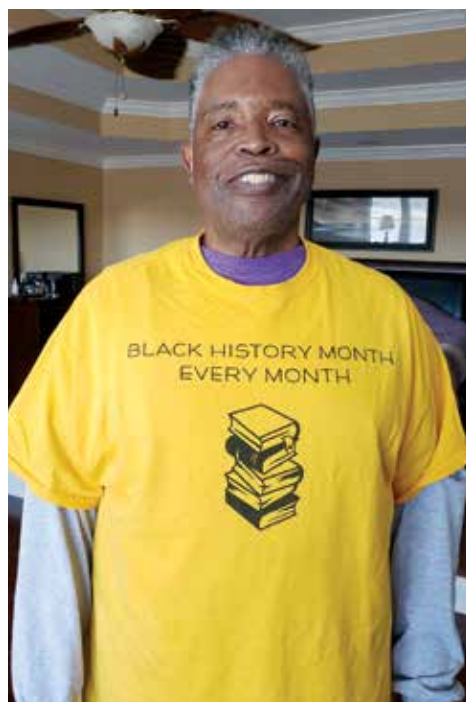
In my opinion, we are at the corner of

hope and action.

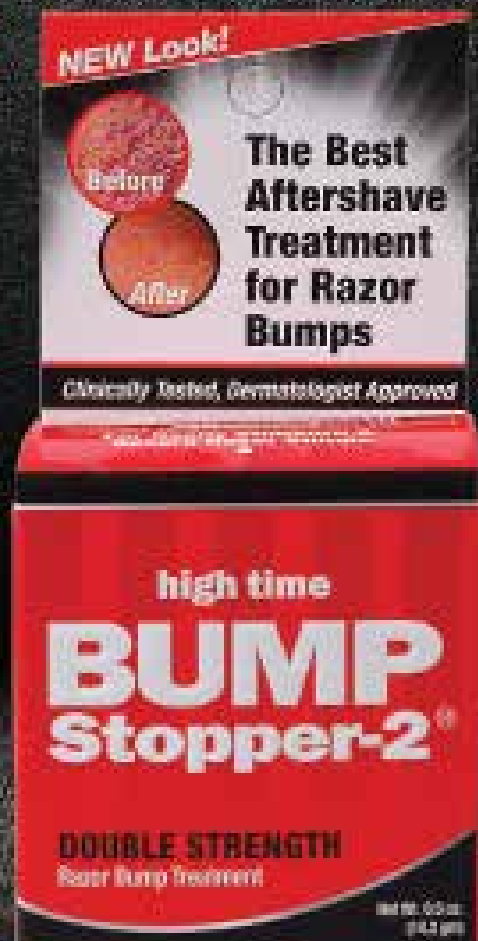
Americans are hoping that this vaccine program brings some relief. We hope that we have turned the corner. Yet from where I sit at the inquiry desk, we have only just begun. We are not even close to the corner.

The action component of the vaccine dissemination is slow and uneven. Maybe the projections of how many people would be vaccinated were off. Those calculations set off false hope in the American people. Distribution and those vaccinated must be more closely aligned and realistic projections must be made.

We have work to do, but we have the resources and the brainpower to do it.



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# Questions

*(The Point Is...?)*

By Dana Rettig

*What's the point of being beautiful when your insides are rotten to the core?*

*What's the point of being brilliant when you allow your dreams to walk right out the door?*

*What's the point of claiming to be "real" when your actions speak otherwise?*

*What's the point of showing off to others when everyone knows you're dying inside?*

*What's the point of claiming to be in love when he/she could care less about you?*

*Don't get mad at me, I'm not the one that's doubting you.*

*What is it about proving a point that gets your blood stirring and puts a tingle in your heart?*

*Are you searching for validation from others so you can reserve your so-called spot?*

*Is your self-schema so obsolete that you would rather sacrifice your well-being to make others feel content and complete?*

*Seems like there are more Indians than chiefs.*

*More rappers than lawyers, teachers and coders.*

*Again, don't kill the messenger; I'm just getting the dirt off my shoulders.*

*Everyone wants to see change ensuing but won't integrate their belief with action.*

*Everyone wants everything instantly, but don't know that their wish fulfillment is beyond taxing.*

*If you slow down, you will see that life is poetry in motion and that civilization is nothing without our elders.*

*Evolution favored them because without our leaders, we would be beyond helpless.*

*Again, I ask what good is living if bad notions reside in your mind and a void in your soul?*

*How can you say that you're spiritually liberated when your existence is barely under control...?*

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## Miss West Virginia State University

# Kayonjra Guerrant

by Dant'e Jones

Communications - Senior  
West Virginia State University

chapter. With that, I have grown the confidence to construct so many events. Six breast cancer awareness tables, a domestic violence discussion, autism awareness impact video, and World Heart Day with the Charleston Community youth in honor of National Heart Month. Through that experience I had thought that I should run for Miss West Virginia State University.

On March 13th, 2020 Kayonjra Guerrant was named the 2020-2021 Miss West Virginia State University her senior year. "What made me want to be Miss West Virginia State University was me having a vision, being that positive example and illumination voice for my community. Being the face of a University and representing my hometown was a bonus! I learned the true lesson of speaking things into existence. At the point when you are important for a gathering, you comprehend and bargain with different individuals. Talking about issues in the community, realizing how individuals feel about specific issues opens your eyes to see things from their perspective."

Running for Miss West Virginia State University was one of the most eye-opening journeys for Kayonjra. Considering the fact that we are in a pandemic, it was a very challenging situation. In her role as Miss State, events were virtual but still managed to improvise within the restrictions. She held events such as a Mister and Miss State Giveaway with Mister State Dylan Turner, a Martin Luther King Jr Impact Video, and many more.

She was excited to start the school year and make her big dreams come true. Sticked to my platform as much as she can for her student body, faculty, and staff. COVID-19 limited many things but All you can do is do the best you can. "This role did not only create great networking opportunities but, I did things for the campus and most of all my community as well. Seeing that my community supports and shows me so much love just gives me such a HUGE push. I didn't allow my setbacks to take over my drive and I used that as motivation to keep pushing and make change.

Not only did Kayonjra hold this position through a global pandemic. She persevered through the obstacles and used that time to view things differently and make an impact."I want to be recognized as somebody who knew what it took and that I can turn out to be more and to show what the opposite side of life resembles." says Kayonjra.

We've all got parts in our lives, to be a champion, yet it's the way we use it that plays a significant role in our lives. In the event that we genuinely attempt and truly need it, we can all really change the world. Everyone should be viewed as hardworking, dedicated, strong, a miracle.

"Throughout this journey I learned so much in so little time and still accomplished my goals to make an impact on my school, community and family." says Kayonjra. But to her the work has just begun.

A 21 year old West Virginia State University senior is crowned queen and is currently a huge representation to her community.

Kayonjra Guerrant is a native from the Wild and Wonderful West Virginia. She is a student at West Virginia State University majoring in social work, pursuing to become a future elementary school social worker. She is very active in her community, a proud Yellow Jacket Cheerleader, President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Nu Chapter, and currently serve as the 2020-2021 Miss West Virginia State University.

West Virginia State University is an historically black, land grant university founded in 1891. Founded under the provisions of the Second Morrill Act of 1890 as the West Virginia Colored Institute, one of 19 land-grant institutions authorized by Congress and designated by the states to provide for the education of black citizens in agriculture and the mechanical arts.

Kayonjra began her WVSU journey in 2017 as a Business Administration major but then changed it to Social Work her sophomore year. She attended WVSU because she had family who are Alumni. "To tell the truth, I hardly knew anything about HBCUs, everything was all new to me but I had come to appreciate black excellence and what those institutions do not only for your success, but for your benefits too." says Kayonjra.

The first week of her Freshman year, she was excited but nervous about how she was going to balance her time and figure out what extracurricular activities she was going to devote her time into but then came her first class schedule. Kayonjra was overwhelmed but the best thing about it is, she got through it.

In 2019, I was named Miss Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority in my





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# SWAN STUDENTS AND FACULTY LEND ARTISTRY TO CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED ANIMATED NETFLIX SHORT 'COPS AND ROBBERS'

**MSU's Screenwriting and Animation Program Receives \$20,000 to Launch 'Changing (H)Arts Scholarship'**



Morgan State University (MSU) SWAN (Screen Writing and Animation) students Thaiyir Sanders and Andre DeNeal (pictured above), along with MSU alum Alfonzer Harvin, are credited among several collaborators on the acclaimed animated short film, “Cops and Robbers.” The project, which was originally intended to stream on social media, was catapulted to new heights upon its release by Netflix in December 2020, reaching more than 200 million international subscribers.

Produced by actress and Baltimore native Jada Pinkett Smith and directed by Arnon Manor and Timothy Ware-Hill, the eight-minute emergent media production uses narrative, video and animation to form riveting commentary about social justice. It was sadly inspired by the brutal killing of Ahmaud Arbery and the ongoing pandemic of police violence against Black Americans. It is based on a video-poem, written and performed by Timothy Ware-Hill, in which he reminisces about his life as a Black child growing up in Alabama and reflects on injustice, as an adult.

Keith Mehlinger, director of SWAN, recalls how Morgan’s screenwriting and animation program became involved with the project: “In the middle of June last year, Arnon Manor and Timothy Ware-Hill reached out...to gauge our interest in joining a call-to-action (project) following the tragic death of Ahmaud Arbery. The effort was made more urgent by the death of George Floyd, and within weeks we had joined the call...to bring Ware-Hill’s spoken word viral video to life as a short, animated film.”

Morgan’s contribution to the production can be found in an animated vignette depicting Black children playing “hide and seek” while the narrator reminisces about the innocent game of his youth, contrasting starkly with the more consequential “games” Black youth of today navigate with unfortunate regularity. The finished product represents a collage of animation styles and genres, expressing the agony and tension of racially motivated police violence against Blacks. The animation created by Morgan’s SWAN collaborators offers a poignant narrative to the final production.



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JESSICA PETTIFORD  
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“It’s an incredible feeling to see your work and passion shared with the world, especially during a time of great turmoil,” said Thaiyir Sanders, a senior in the SWAN program. “With ‘Cops and Robbers,’ I truly felt seen not just by my colleagues as I worked on our section but seen by my country (for) what was likely the first

time. I am honored to have been a part of this project.”

Senior Andre DeNeal added about SWAN and the “Cops and Robbers” experience, “The learning (curve) was off the charts, thanks to the expert collaboration offered by Arnon Manor and Timothy Ware-Hill. They were drawn to us because of the social justice themes of their work, and our standing as an HBCU with an interdisciplinary film and technology major with concentrations in animation.”

Morgan’s SWAN program is among a handful of film programs at HBCUs and is the only interdisciplinary cinematic arts and sciences program with a liberal arts framework emphasizing visual storytelling and its evolving forms while integrating computer science and technology for 2D/3D animation, game design and visual effects.

Using the original spoken-word poetry set against video and animation, “Cops and Robbers” is rooted in themes that reflect on human commonality, childhood innocence and introspection on the loss of innocence. The themes resonate throughout the film.

Redemption, implied by the elevation of one’s consciousness in recognizing cops, who on many occasions, are also robbers, is explained by Ware-Hill: “Some people take it as if I’m seeing cops and then the Black people are the robbers. But there’s another interpretation: that cops, they are the cops and the robbers. They have the power to be both. They have the power to patrol and police, and also to take.”

Partners Manor and Ware-Hill initially conceived their creation as an animated short designed to drive awareness on social media, but they soon realized something larger was afoot. Backed by recognized Hollywood names — Lawrence Bender (“Pulp Fiction”) and Jada Pinkett Smith — “Cops and Robbers” soon caught the attention of Netflix.

“We never imagined having such a successful release for the film,” exclaimed Manor. “We also had no expectation

of monetizing the film but pledged that if any proceeds were to be derived, we would donate 100% to charities and organizations that empower Black lives. When Netflix licensed the film, we were able to realize that promise and offer scholarships to Morgan State and Alabama State Universities, as well as (donate) to several other charities as our giving-back pledge.”

Building on the success and exposure of “Cops and Robbers,” Manor and Ware-Hill made good on their commitment to give back, creating scholarship funds at both Alabama State University and here at Morgan. Little did our SWAN collaborators know that their efforts would



eventually seed scholarship opportunities for future students of the screenwriting and animation program. Manor and Ware-Hill endowed a \$20,000 scholarship, the Changing (H)Arts Scholarship Fund, for SWAN students to further their commitment to promoting social justice, diversity and inclusion, and to spearhead education initiatives at the University’s James H. Gilliam Jr. College of Liberal Arts (CLA) — the first-ever scholarship funding specifically for SWAN students and one of the largest received by the CLA.

The scholarship will award \$1,000 each to 20 junior or senior students, based on academic achievement and demonstrated financial need, for tuition, textbooks and University-related expenses. These students must exemplify the ability to inspire the hearts and minds of others to embrace social justice causes, including civil rights, LGBTQIA+ inclusion, Black Lives Matter, gender equality, immigration reform, etc., through their chosen cinematic art form.

When asked about the future of social consciousness films like this, Manor commented, “I am hoping that this is just the beginning of more projects like this.”

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I know. THIS is such a tough subject all across the U.S. and in foreign countries as many universities and colleges have reopened for in-person learning.

### The question:

If given the option, do I return to campus to take my classes if my college or university has reopened? Or do I opt for online courses, if available, or switch to a different college that offers what I need completely online?

If you have decided to return to campus for higher education, to have an opportunity to see your friends and experience college life (although under different terms), I'm writing to you to say...please stay conscious of health protocols and procedures as you move about your campus classes.

Because Covid-19 numbers surged during the winter months, the potential for students to already have the virus before returning to campus is a possibility; some people may even say it's a reality.

In my opinion, if you have perceived the risks and have decided to proceed with in-person learning, be sure to also take on the responsibility of following the best safety procedures for yourself and your classmates.

### So what can I do?

- If you haven't already, check with your university health center, ask questions about campus procedures

for coronavirus safety;

- Wear multilayered masks, even with friends who you may see all the time;
- Be aware and implement 6 feet or more distance—more space is always better;
- Encourage classmates, in a positive way, to adhere to all campus safety procedures, including wearing masks, hand washing (20 seconds) and social distancing;
- Wash your cloth masks and/or change out disposal ones;
- Use disinfectant to clean living quarters, paying close attention to items frequently touched (doorknobs, remotes, appliances, surfaces, etc);
- Get tested as often as necessary...and encourage friends to do the same;
- Stay informed, ask questions about vaccine options and make the best decision for yourself!

For the most up-to-date national Covid-19 safety information, visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) for details.

Stay safe...stay encouraged!

Until the Next Time...CKB

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- Mane 'n Tail Micellar works on all hair types with an emphasis on textured hair because of outstanding results. Enriched with Argan Oil, the Micellar Conditioner may be used as a rinse-out or leave-in conditioner.
- Vegan formula, created with Vegan-friendly ingredients
- Never tested on animals



### **Micellar Benefits:**

- Gentle cleanser
- Remove build-up, unclog pores naturally
- Leave your scalp with a clean, detoxified feeling
- Leave your hair moisturized, silky & refreshed
- Detangle during both the shampooing & conditioning steps,

a process which helps to reduce the incidence of breakage. As we mentioned, all hair types (from type 1A to 4C) will benefit greatly from Mane 'n Tail Micellar Water Shampoo and Conditioner especially women with textured hair who want the 'natural' hair look. We have done extensive salon testing to get this hair care system just right and have listened to our customers to find out what their hair care wants and needs really are! Mane 'n Tail has delivered a shampoo and conditioner that isn't just ANY shampoo and conditioner, but THE shampoo and conditioner that you have searched high and low for as a solution to all your hair care dilemmas! You will love your hair and rejoice in the clean, healthy feeling, while hair maintains its body, shine and fullness!

Straight Arrow Products, Inc., since 1970, continues to create and provide exclusive hair and skin care products renowned for quality and performance in both the Equestrian and Personal Care markets. We've honed our roots by initially producing under the brand names Mane 'n Tail®,

Hoofmaker®, and Mineral Ice®. Naturally expanding to accommodate people, as the equestrian audience discovered a valuable 'secret', that the products they were using on their horses, created remarkable results when used on themselves, as well. Mane 'n Tail is now a leading brand in the personal hair and skin care world. Straight Arrow continues to manufacture all products right here in the USA, adhering to strict quality assurances, guidelines and consistently meeting a high-performance standard. As our business has continued to grow, we have expanded our variety of equine products to include the brands Cowboy Magic and Exhibitor's. Our credo is to "Satisfy the Customer" which has been our company's tradition from day one. Straight Arrow currently sells its products in over 200,000+ locations throughout North America and internationally. Straight Arrow Products, Inc. 2020 Highland Ave. Bethlehem, PA 18020 phone: 610-882-9606 [www.straightarrowinc.com](http://www.straightarrowinc.com); [www.manentail.com](http://www.manentail.com); [www.manentaillequine.com](http://www.manentaillequine.com); [www.cowboymagic.com](http://www.cowboymagic.com); [www.exhibitorlabs.com](http://www.exhibitorlabs.com)

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# Tips to Make Writing Papers That are Effective



by Felicia Durden



Let's face it writing papers is a major part of the college experience. As a college student, you will encounter many writing assignments including; critiquing texts, writing narratives, reporting on research findings and performing a plethora of other critical reading and writing tasks. Your performance on writing assignments will be a strong variable in your overall G.P.A. Therefore, figuring out the best way to think about and conduct writing assignments is a good way to ensure your college and career success. I was an English composition professor for many years. This allowed me to clearly understand the skills needed for students to perform well on their writing assignments. If students follow the tips below they obtain higher grades on essays and enjoy the writing process.

## Tip #1: Read To Learn

The reading load of a college student is vast. You will be responsible for reading a lot of material in the different courses that you are in. Use these reading experiences as an opportunity to study different writing styles and collect tips on ways to incorporate the features of the text into your own writing. By studying the writing used in research articles, for example, you can learn how to cite properly and to lay out the facts in an organized manner.

One of the best ways to approach a writing assignment is to read other

papers written in the same style. By looking at the style and noting the features used, you will be able to transfer this knowledge into your writing.

## Tip #2 Seek Clarification

I cannot tell you the countless times my students were confused about what an assignment was asking and because they failed to ask for clarification they often earned lower grades. My tip is to read the expectations for your writing assignment and rewrite the directions in your own words. If after doing this, you have anything that does not make sense immediately ask your instructor to clarify the expectations. This shows a sign of intelligence and investment in your learning. Often students are embarrassed to ask for clarification, but rest assured this is imperative if you want to earn good grades. Think about the students who ask a lot of questions in class. They are often the ones that make the best grades. This is due to the fact that are clear on what is expected so they are able to meet that standard.

## Tip #3 Write in a Professional Tone

As a college student, it is important to take every writing assignment seriously and write in a professional tone. This goes back to our first tip of reading professional writing so you can mimic the style and tone. When writing college level papers, it is imperative to use professional language. Avoid using

slang and text language. One way to combat this is to read your own paper backwards so you can catch your own spelling and grammar errors. I have had my students use this trick for years, and they comment on how they are able to catch errors when they do this. Also be sure to use proper grammar and tone in your writing. If you have deficiencies in grammar be sure to follow tip #2 and ask for assistance. Your college should have a writing center with skilled helpers who can assist you with your papers including proof reading them for grammar.

## Tip #4 Shared Writing

Sharing your writing with a classmate who can read your paper is a great way to ensure that your points are accurate and that you have communicated all your ideas clearly. If you share your writing be sure to not take any feedback negatively and look at it as a way to improve your writing talents. I am an author, and my editors read my work to help me articulate my ideas more clearly. We know what we are trying to say when we are writing, but sometimes we are not as clear as we think we are, thus have another set of eyes on your paper is a great way to get feedback on how clearly you have communicated your points.

Writing in college is inevitable, but by using the 4 tips shared above you can make the task less tasking and more enjoyable. I hope that you can incorporate these tips into your writing regime.



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# HEALTH 101: SOUND HEALING

*It's time to heal mentally and physically, you deserve the highest quality of health. Let the beauty of sound heal the mind and body.*

by Jessica Miller



## **What is Sound Healing?**

Sound Therapy refers to a range of therapies in which sound is used to treat physical and mental conditions. Indigenous societies around the world have traditionally used sound in healing ceremonies, including drumming, hand-clapping, singing, dancing, and pulsating since the beginning of time.

Sound Therapy techniques vary but all involve the application of sound waves and harmonic vibrations to the body through the use of instruments, including the human voice. Sound helps to facilitate shifts in our brainwave state by using entrainment. Entrainment synchronizes our fluctuating brainwaves by providing a stable frequency which the brainwave can attune to. By using rhythm and frequency, we can entrain our brainwaves and it then becomes possible to down-shift our normal beta state (normal waking consciousness) to alpha (relaxed consciousness), and even reach theta (meditative state) and delta (sleep; where internal healing can occur).

## **Benefits of Sound Healing**

### 1. Relaxation

Deep relaxation is one of the most significant and universal benefits of sound therapy. Sound can stimulate waves of energies to our bodies causing soothing and relaxation. So if you take nothing else away from a sound healing session, relaxation on its own is worth it. With our busy schedules and so much going on in the world, we can all use some chill and positive vibes.

### 2. Clears Energetic Blockages

Some people experience deep healing during sound therapy as the sound vibrations open, clear, and balance their chakras and release

*Continued on page 31*

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# MENTAL BANDWIDTH RECOVERY AMIDST A PANDEMIC

by Yolanda Christophe, Ph.D.  
Student Research Assistant  
Morgan State University



The COVID-19 pandemic has been a tumultuous wave for many. Quite frankly, it is still hard to believe that we are enduring a pandemic. With work-from-home now becoming a new-normal and in most cases, a permanent, long-term resolve for most organizations, many have taken on new roles at home. This may take the form of separating tasks between individuals in the home, taking turns to work on job assignments and tasks and sharing household tasks and caring for older or younger family members. For instance, one parent may take on the role of caretaker for the children while the other parent engages in their work duty. Or perhaps, siblings working or going to school virtually in the same room. The pandemic has stretched us in more ways than we could have ever imagined and has mentally taxed our capacity to handle our obligations, to say the least. Researchers have argued that our mental capacity or mental bandwidth as they refer to it, is scarce and limited in supply. Understanding how this taxation impacts our day to day living is important if we want to perform at optimum levels.

Eldar Shafir, a psychologist at Princeton says that when we focus deeply on one thing, there is simply less space available mentally to focus on other things. To be clearer, it is suitable to define what is meant by mental bandwidth, or mental space. According to the Bandwidth Academy, mental bandwidth is defined

as the extremely limited amount of cognitive resources we have available for completing tasks. Additionally, one can think of mental bandwidth as our capacity process information, deal with stress and make healthy decisions. The pandemic has stripped us of our limited bandwidth particularly with home tasks, caring for children, job uncertainties, health uncertainties and financial crises. As such, we have less bandwidth available for other important tasks or the things we really care about or are interested in.

The bottom line here is understanding how this impacts our lives and health. Many have complained about burnout, decline in job performance and even experiencing a distaste for duties at home, particularly spousal duties; there is a lack of knowledge about these emotions come about and the reason is tax that is being impressed upon our minds. Mental Bandwidth scholars, Eldar Shafir and Sendhil Mullainathan advise that “the deeper lesson is the need to focus on managing and cultivating bandwidth, despite pressures to the contrary brought on by scarcity.” As such, some

recommendations for managing and cultivating bandwidth include:

- Delegating tasks at home. If there are enough persons within the household, try splitting them in the best way possible.
- Changing the work/study environment often. Try studying in a park or café if it is safe do so.
- Getting a mental health therapist. Talking to a therapist is like unloading all your clothes and junk from your suitcase after having taken a trip. This is called managing your bandwidth.
- Practicing mindfulness. Mindfulness is the act of creating mental space for future events/items/things. During mindfulness, we attempt to shift our focus to the present and not allow our busy minds to wander.
- Taking a break and step away.
- Giving yourself and others grace.



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[microsoft.com/en-us/diversity/programs/blacks-scholarships.aspx](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/diversity/programs/blacks-scholarships.aspx)

[The Earl Woods Scholarship Program](https://www.tigerwoodsfoundation.org)  
(Tiger Woods Scholarship Foundation)-[tigerwoodsfoundation.org](https://www.tigerwoodsfoundation.org)

[Jerry Malloy Negro Baseball League Scholarship](https://www.sabr.org/malloy)-[sabr.org/malloy](https://www.sabr.org/malloy)

[National Press Club Scholarship for Journalism Diversity](https://www.press.org/about/scholarships)  
[Press.org/about/scholarships](https://www.press.org/about/scholarships)

[Shell Incentive Fund Scholarship](https://www.shell.us/scholarships)-[shell.us/scholarships](https://www.shell.us/scholarships)

[National Institute of Health \(NIH\) Undergraduate Scholarship](https://www.training.nih.gov/programs/ugsp)  
[Programtraining.nih.gov/programs/ugsp](https://www.training.nih.gov/programs/ugsp)

[The Ed Bradley Scholarship](https://www.rtdna.org)-[rtdna.org](https://www.rtdna.org)

[Daring YOUNG Artist to Dream Scholarships](https://www.worldstudioinc.com)  
[Scholarships.worldstudioinc.com](https://www.worldstudioinc.com)

[Scholarships for Low Income Women](https://www.collegesuccessfoundation.org/national/scholarships/o-wines)  
[collegesuccessfoundation.org/national/scholarships/o-wines](https://www.collegesuccessfoundation.org/national/scholarships/o-wines)

[Adobe Youth Voices Scholarships](https://www.youthvoices.adobe.com/scholarships)  
[youthvoices.adobe.com/scholarships](https://www.youthvoices.adobe.com/scholarships)

[Exxon Mobil Bernard Harris Math and Science Minority](https://www.theharrisfoundation.org)  
[Scholarshipstheharrisfoundation.org](https://www.theharrisfoundation.org)

[Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes](https://www.barronprize.org)-[barronprize.org](https://www.barronprize.org)

[Jesse Jackson PUSH Excel Scholarship](https://www.pushexcel.org)-[pushexcel.org](https://www.pushexcel.org)

[Doodle 4 Google Scholarship](https://www.google.com/doodle4google) [google.com/doodle4google](https://www.google.com/doodle4google)

[Dollars for Scholars Student Volunteer Scholarships](https://www.scholarshipamerica.com)-  
[scholarshipamerica.com](https://www.scholarshipamerica.com)

[The Toyota Teen Driver Video](https://www.teendrive365inschool.com)  
[Challenge-teendrive365inschool.com](https://www.teendrive365inschool.com)

[JayZ Sean Carter Foundation Scholarship](https://www.seancartersf.com)-[seancartersf.com](https://www.seancartersf.com)

[Black Women Lawyers \(BWL\) Foundation Scholarships](https://www.bwlfoundation.org)-  
[bwlfoundation.org](https://www.bwlfoundation.org)

[NBNA Scholarship Program for Black Nurses](https://www.nbna.org)-[nbna.org](https://www.nbna.org)

[Jack and Jill of America Scholarship](https://www.jackandjillfoundation.org)-[jackandjillfoundation.org](https://www.jackandjillfoundation.org)  
[Ihaveadreamfoundation.org](https://www.haveadreamfoundation.org)

[CIA Undergraduate](https://www.cia.gov/careers/student-opportunities)  
[Scholarship-cia.gov/careers/student-opportunities](https://www.cia.gov/careers/student-opportunities)

[Dell Scholars Program](https://www.dellscholars.org)-[dellscholars.org](https://www.dellscholars.org)

[Charles Shelton Veterinarian Medicine Technology Scholarship](https://www.thecharlessheltonfoundation.org/Scholarship)  
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[Delete Cyberbullying Contest](https://www.endcyberbullying.net/scholarship)-[endcyberbullying.net/scholarship](https://www.endcyberbullying.net/scholarship)

[PNC Institutional Investments Scholarships](https://www.pnc.com)  
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[National Restaurant Association Scholarships](https://www.chooserestaurants.org)-  
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[Kraft General Foods Scholarship](https://www.scholarshipsonline.org)-[scholarshipsonline.org](https://www.scholarshipsonline.org)

[Ulman Cancer Fund for Young Adults Scholarships](https://www.ulmanfund.org/scholarships)  
[ulmanfund.org/scholarships](https://www.ulmanfund.org/scholarships)

[Microsoft Disability Scholarship](https://www.scholarshipsonline.org)-[scholarshipsonline.org](https://www.scholarshipsonline.org)

[Minority Undergraduate Fellows Program](https://www.napa.org)-[Napa.org](https://www.napa.org)

[Xerox Minority Technical Scholarship](https://www.xerox.com)-[Xerox.com](https://www.xerox.com)

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[American Chemical Society Scholarships](https://www.acs.org)-[acs.org](https://www.acs.org)

[National Association of Black Engineers](https://www.nsbe.org)-[nsbe.org](https://www.nsbe.org)

[Ambassadorial Scholarships](https://www.rotary.org)-[rotary.org](https://www.rotary.org)

[American Legion Scholarships](https://www.legion.org)-[legion.org](https://www.legion.org)

[AAU Youth Excel Program Scholarship](https://www.aausports.org)-[aausports.org](https://www.aausports.org)

[Lowe's Scholarship Program](https://www.lowes.com)-[careers.lowes.com](https://www.lowes.com)

[Google Scholarships](https://www.google.com)-[googlescholarships.com](https://www.google.com)

[Southern Scholarship Foundation](https://www.southern scholars.org)-[southern scholars.org](https://www.southern scholars.org)

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[The Foundation for Excellence in Education Arts for](https://www.excelined.org)  
[Life-excelined.org](https://www.excelined.org)

[Florida Association of Realtors Essay Contest](https://www.mediafloridarealtors.org)-  
[mediafloridarealtors.org](https://www.mediafloridarealtors.org)

[National Commission of Coop Education](https://www.co-op.edu)-[co-op.edu](https://www.co-op.edu)

[Buick Achievers Scholarship](https://www.buickachievers.com)-[buickachievers.com](https://www.buickachievers.com)

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THIRD

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FOURTH

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FIFTH

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# DID DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SEE YOU FROM HIS MOUNTAINTOP VIEW?

By Robin Kegler



On April 3, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his last speech at Mason Temple (Church of God In Christ) in Memphis, Tennessee. It is known as the “I’ve Been To The Mountaintop” Speech. This, along with the “I Have A Dream” Speech are known primarily by what Dr. King said at the end of those speeches. I encourage you to read, or listen to the entire speech and note the relevance in today’s social and economic climate.

Lasting impact occurs when obsolete systems are removed and replaced with positive systems and new ways of seeing and doing things. It requires a mindset transformation. It is an overcoming mindset of champions who refuse to quit, get up when knocked down and continue to believe the best in the face of adversity. It’s an inner strength that stares death in the face and says, “That’s the best you got? You can’t stop me.”

“.... I got into Memphis. And some began to say the threats, or talk about the threats that were out. What would happen to me...?”

Well, I don’t know what will happen now. We’ve got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn’t matter with me now, because I’ve been to the mountaintop.

I just want to do God’s will. And He’s allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I’ve looked over. And I’ve seen the Promised Land.” Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Perhaps Dr. King was encouraged by what he saw from his mountaintop view. There are seven mountains of influence in every culture. The mountains are education, government, arts & entertainment, media, family, business and religion. Those at the top (or near the top) of these mountains get to shape how society thinks and turns. In remembrance of the life and anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his impact on African-American culture, let’s take note of young people, like you who are climbing to the top of each of these mountains of influence determined to make and be the change.

1. The Mountain of Education: Marley Dias, 15

Marley Dias loves to read books. Her frustration was the lack of representation of black girls as protagonists. This gap encouraged Marley to start, #1000BlackGirlBooks. The campaign’s initial goal was to locate 1000 books with black girls as protagonists. She has exceeded her initial goal and has collected 9000 books. Marley has partnered with educators to promote and encourage diversity in reading in the United States. She has also donated thousands of books to young girls in Caribbean countries.

2. The Mountain of Government: Mari Copeny, 12

In 2014, the Flint, Michigan water crisis gained national attention when the Flint River, source of the city’s drinking water, became contaminated. The fallout included twelve deaths from Legionnaire’s Disease and multiple still births. In 2016, then 8- year-old Mari Copeny wrote a letter to President Obama to request a meeting at the White House. President Obama was so touched that he went to Michigan to see her. That visit was the spark that ignited a national spotlight on the health crisis in Flint, MI and led to a multi-million-dollar settlement for those who were impacted. Since that time, Marely has been active in the Girls Up Initiative and serving as the youngest ambassador for the Women’s March.

3. The Mountain of Art & Entertainment: Yara Shahidi, 19

For 7 seasons, *Black-Ish* has followed the Johnson family as parents, Dre and Rainbow Johnson, seek to instill values of ethnic identity and history, while encouraging their children to step into the future with confidence. Yara Shahidi (Zoey Johnson) have taken the lessons of diversity beyond the set and into the community. She started Yara’s Club, in partnership with Young Women’s Leadership Network to mentor young women, have relevant conversations and encourage social activism.

Continued from page 22

stuck energy. I personally will describe this feeling as a “energetic deep tissue massage” that leaves you feeling balanced and replenished.

### 3. Boosts Health

Benefits can include improved sleep, reduction of chronic pain and blood pressure, lowered cholesterol, and a decreased risk of heart disease.

### 4. Supports mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being

The soothing sounds help to re-tune your brain to cope with stress better by replenishing brain energy with high-frequency sound. By using specific frequencies to help rebalance brain function, sound therapy can help you think clearer and avoid the temptation to rely on self-destructive and addictive habits. A healthy mind promotes a healthy body and you can break the cycle of negative thinking and habits to enjoy a much calmer and focused life.

### What's Next?

If you are ready to get started with sound healing I will suggest going to a in person session, virtual sessions, or doing it yourself. My personal favorite sound healing therapist is Exalted Healing Sounds, which is based in Little Rock, Arkansas. They offer in person sessions as well as virtual sessions.

### Exalted Healing Sounds

Website: <https://www.llpnatural.com/servicesmagazine>

If you are interested in doing an in person session I recommend finding a local Sound Healer Therapist.

For doing it on yourself you can actually go to youtube and search sound healing and meditate however long that is desired. If you want to take it to the next step and purchasing instruments you find them on amazon.com



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4. The Mountain of Media: Tony Weaver, 15

As Founder and CEO of Weird Enough Productions, Tony Weaver uses his craft to correct the misrepresentation of young men of color in media. He uses short films and web comics to display positive representations of black men instead of the negative portrayals that lead to negative perceptions of black men. Tony Weaver is also paying it forward by producing media literacy education to encourage and empower young people to create their own projects.

5. The Mountain of Family: Stephen Stafford, 18

Stephen Stafford started “playing school” with his then 6-year-old sister when he was only 2. He was doing multiplication when he entered kindergarten. Stephen’s family supported him through every challenge and success. His mother home schooled him through the age of 11 because Stephen was so far ahead of others his age. When Stephen’s mom was unable to teach

him algebra 2 because she didn’t fully understand it, she enrolled him in Morehouse University. Stephen finished Algebra 2 with a 105 average. Stephen graduated Morehouse University at 17 with a triple major (Pre-Med, Computer Science and Math). Stephen Stafford is on track to complete Morehouse School of Medicine with a degree in obstetrics by age 22.

6. The Mountain of Business: Leanna Archer, 25

Leanna Archer is CEO of her own hair product line that she started at age 9 using her great grandmother’s (from Haiti) secret recipe. At the time, Leanna’s annual net worth was \$100,000. Today it is 5 million dollars. Leanna Archer was the youngest entrepreneur to open NASDAQ at the age of sixteen. Through the Leanna Archer Education Foundation, she assists under privileged children in Haiti by providing 3 meals a day and a safe learning environment for 150 students.

7. The Mountain of Religion: Isiah Tatum

One of Isiah Tatum’s goals is to help 100 home buyers purchase their own home. Isiah credits God for his success and enjoys sharing his blessings he’s received academically and professionally to encourage others to reach for what’s possible regardless of challenges. With a master’s degree in Entertainment Business, Isiah has marketed a 12-time Grammy Award winner, published multiple books, including Finding That Business In You. This book is being used by the Tennessee Dept. of Corrections’ B.E.S.T. (Building Entrepreneurs for Success in Tennessee) Program.

Many have climbed these 7 mountains. Which one is yours? Which one do you think Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. saw you on when he looked from his mountaintop the night before his assassination? Whichever one is yours, keep climbing. Keep making the difference where you are now because “we, as a people, will get to the promised land!” Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.





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## HAMPTON UNIVERSITY SCRIPPS HOWARD SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATIONS ANNOUNCES NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH NBCUNIVERSAL NEWS GROUP



The Hampton University Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications is excited to announce a \$500,000, multi-year partnership with NBCUniversal News Group that will literally infuse much needed support to a myriad of areas, such as scholarships, on-campus journalism training and access to world-class NBCU News Group journalists. This much-welcomed partnership is a testament to the global corporation's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, and creating pipelines for students from all ethnicities, gender, and backgrounds, to realize their dreams of working in the media industry.

"Hampton University appreciates NBCUniversal News Group for its financial investment, technological contributions and other collaborative efforts in supporting our Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications, as well as the other participating institutions," said Dr. William R. Harvey, President of Hampton University. "The NBCU Academy will provide our students with unmatched opportunities from one of the leading mass media and entertainment conglomerates in the world. This effort is in-line with the goal of diversifying staff in newsrooms across the country when Scripps Howard was established in 2002."

The strategic partnership places Hampton among 16 other Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Service Institutions and Colleges with Significant Black, Indigenous and People of Color Populations, that will benefit from the wealth of support through NBCU Academy, a newly launched program

from NBCUniversal News Group. NBCU Academy is an innovative, multiplatform journalism training and development program for four-year university and community college students through education on-campus training and online programming.

The NBCU Academy will provide professional journalists, guest lecturers and fieldwork under the guidance of current NBCU News Group talent to elevate the curriculum, and resources for special seminars across all of the classification of students. The financial support will include tuition assistance, internship stipends, funding for equipment, both in studio, digital and mobile, as well as production tools including software.

"It is difficult to capture in words the impact of the NBCU Academy grant as we navigate the uncertainty around recruitment and retention that hovers as a result of this pandemic. As a dean, I am spending endless hours shoring up resources to ensure that these young journalists and communicators have every educational advantage possible paving a path to placement in this industry," said B. DaVida Plummer, Dean of the Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications. "So many corporations have called to discuss diversity and inclusion; but it takes more than synergy. It takes a financial commitment to raise the bar in tools, resources, expertise, scholarship and exposure to working professionals who can lead the way. NBCU News Group came willing to support the program in a myriad of sustainable ways. Students who have financial need will be assisted; academic programs will be enhanced with an infusion

of NBC News, MSNBC, CNBC and Telemundo talent and expertise; technology will be upgraded and our entire school community has been inspired by the depth and reach of support that simply couldn't have come at a better time."

NBCUniversal has always shown a strong level of support of the SHSJC through internships and job opportunities, including hiring the school's graduates. While we're proud of all of our graduates, we are particularly happy to recognize Rashida Jones, class of 2002, who was recently named the new president of MSNBC, effective Feb. 1, 2021. She will become the first Black executive to lead a major television news network.

The newly launched NBCU Academy will reach students from underrepresented groups, including those with diverse, racial, ethnic, economic and geographic backgrounds.

"Creating an inclusive culture for journalism that represents the communities we serve is at the very core of what we do," said NBCU News Group Chairman Cesar Conde. "Through NBCU Academy, we have the opportunity to widen our extraordinary legacy by building on-ramps for a talented generation of journalists and storytellers who—for so long—may have been overlooked."

In June 2020, Comcast NBCUniversal announced a multi-year, \$100 million commitment to help address systemic racism and inequality. NBCU Academy is part of that pledge and focuses on providing tools, resources, and platforms for young, underrepresented voices.

# CENTRAL STATE UNIVERSITY – DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE HAS BEEN AWARDED A DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GRANT FOR IMPROVING MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTION FOR STEAM

The Central State University – Department of Mathematics and Computer Science was recently awarded a Department of Education Grant for Improving Mathematics Instruction for STEAM Students (IMISS). The three-year award totaling \$748,735 can be used for equipment, maintenance and staffing and will allow Central State University (CSU) to increase services to students.

According to CSU Assistant Professor of Math, Bhupendra Paudyal, Ph.D., the goals of this grant are to increase student success in college algebra and other mathematics courses and to increase STEAM retention.

The award allows for the establishment of the full-fledged Mathematics Learning Center (MLC), which cost nearly \$70,000. The recently furnished room comes complete with new computers and furniture. The Center will be located



in room 134 of Henderson Hall, on the campus of Central State and will be staffed with a full-time coordinator, as well as more than 10 professional and peer tutors to help students with math courses.

Dr. Paudyal, serves as the Project Director for the grant. Before joining Central State University, he worked as a visiting faculty at Northern Arizona University and as an assistant professor at Lincoln University. He earned his Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Toledo and his primary research interests lie in the areas of complex analysis and operator theory.



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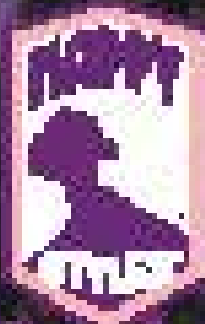


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## BLACK COLLEGE TODAY

PROUDLY PRESENTS

## BLACK COLLEGE 2020 - 2021

# CAMPUS KINGS



**ROUDNES LOUISSAINT**  
*Major: Biology*  
ALBANY STATE UNIVERSITY



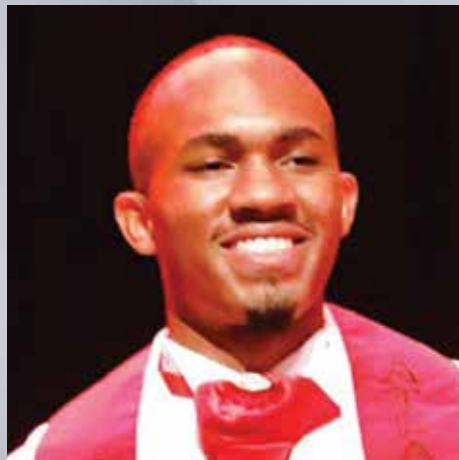
**HENRY F. PETERSON, III**  
*Major: Business Administration*  
BENEDICT COLLEGE



**JAVIAN JONES**  
*Major: Criminal Justice*  
BETHUNE COOKMAN UNIVERSITY



**JALEN SYKES**  
*Major: Biology*  
BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY



**DARIUS RODDY-MOORE**  
*Business Administration-Marketing*  
CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY



**JUSTIN E. MATTHEWS**  
*Major: Physics*  
DILLARD UNIVERSITY



# 2020-2021 CAMPUS KINGS



**ROBERT THOMAS, III**  
*Major: Business Administration*  
EDWARD WATERS COLLEGE



**NORMAR M. PROCTOR**  
*Major: Aviation Science*  
ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY



**AHMAHD MOORE**  
*Major: Communications/Pre-Law*  
FAYETTEVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY



**KIMANI JACKSON**  
*Major: Vocal Performance*  
FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY



**AUBREY WASHINGTON, II**  
*Major: Criminal Justice*  
FLORIDA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY



**DESNO DEAN**  
*Major: Aviation Management*  
FLORIDA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY



**JORDAN RAY**  
*Major: Liberal Studies*  
HAMPTON UNIVERSITY



**JUSTIN PEARSON**  
*Major: Health Care Management*  
HARRIS-STOWE STATE UNIVERSITY



**PERRY FLORENCE, JR.**  
*Major: Industrial Technology*  
HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
UTICA CAMPUS



# 2020-2021 CAMPUS KINGS



**TIMOTHY McDONALD**  
*Major: Chemical Engineering*  
HOWARD UNIVERSITY



**KIJANA ROBERTS**  
*Major: Journalism/Media Studies*  
JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY



**JUSTICE RICE**  
*Major: English*  
LEMOYNE OWEN COLLEGE



**KALON MICHAEL GROVER**  
*Major: Journalism*  
LINCOLN UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI



**DMITRI YEARBY**  
*Major: Finance*  
LINCOLN UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA



**LAROZZO SHUGART**  
*Major: Secondary Education*  
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY



**ANDREW J. HILL**  
*Major: Sociology*  
MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



**BRANDON J. HEARD**  
*Major: Liberal Studies*  
MORRIS COLLEGE



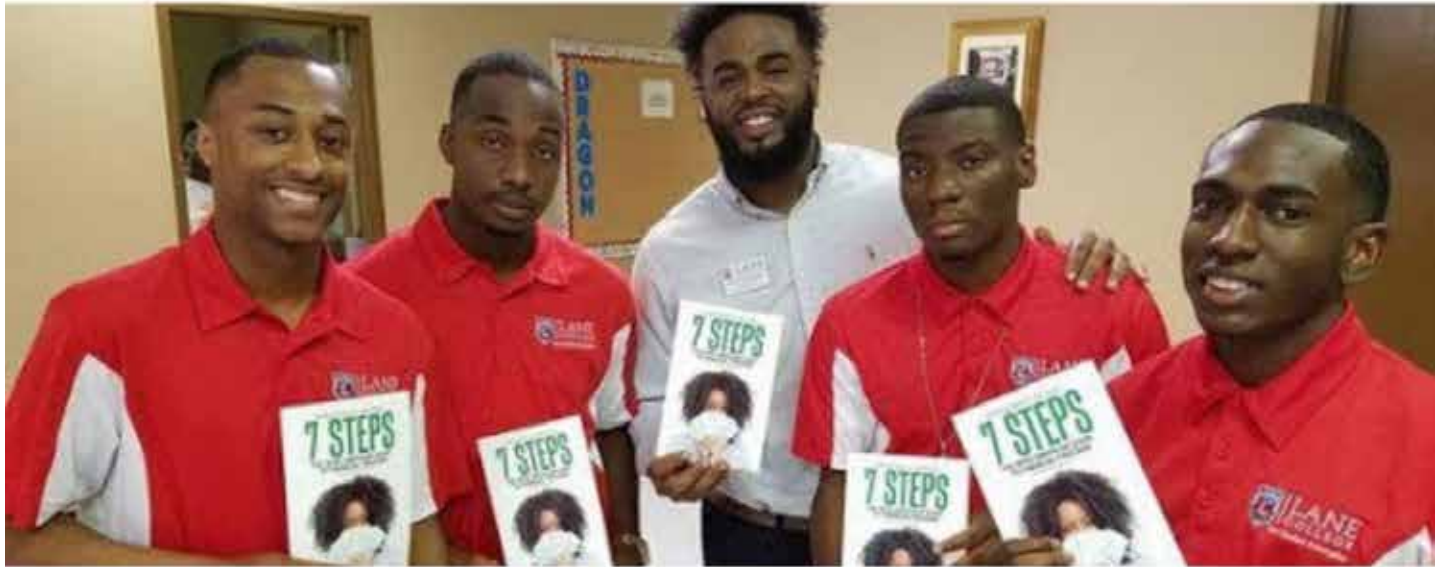
**JOSHUA O'BRYANT**  
*Major: Sociology*  
NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY



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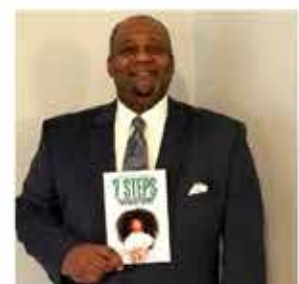
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# 2020-2021 CAMPUS KINGS



**VICTOR SOLOMON**  
*Major: Accounting*  
NORTH CAROLINA A&T  
STATE UNIVERSITY



**DE'ANDRE BROWN**  
*Major: Biology*  
OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY



**TERRIAN LIVINGSTON**  
*Major: Sociology*  
PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE



**JOSHUA LEWIS**  
*Major: Biology*  
PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY



**CAMERON MICHAEL WILSON**  
*Major: Mass Communications*  
RUST COLLEGE



**MALACHI STEWART**  
*Major: Visual and Performing Arts*  
SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY



**JEROME BOYCE**  
*Major: Computer Science*  
SHAW UNIVERSITY



**JONATHAN DOE**  
*Major: Sociology/Criminal Justice*  
SHAW UNIVERSITY



**JUSTIN JAMES**  
*Major: Business Administration*  
STILLMAN COLLEGE

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# 2020-2021 CAMPUS KINGS



**NATON SMITH, JR.**  
*Health Science/Physical Therapy*  
TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY



**LEVELL WILLIAMS**  
*Major: Mass Communication*  
TOUGALOO COLLEGE



**MARQUISE R. FLETCHER**  
*Major: Mechanical Engineering*  
TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY



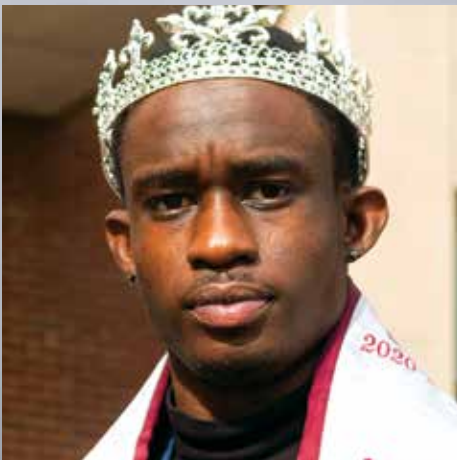
**JA'VONTE GONZALEZ**  
*Major: Visual Art and Design*  
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT PINE BLUFF



**ERIC BONO**  
*Major: Urban Sustainability*  
UNIVERSITY OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



**JAHAD N. MARTIN**  
*Major: Sociology*  
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN  
SHORE



**MATTHEW DERILIUS**  
*Major: Business Marketing*  
VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY



**DENZEL WALLS**  
*Major: Business Administration*  
VOORHEES COLLEGE



**DEVAUNTE McKEE**  
*Major: Biology*  
VOORHEES COLLEGE



# 2020-2021 CAMPUS KINGS



**DYLAN TURNER**

*Major: Business Administration*  
WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY



**JEREMIAH BROWN**

*Major: Pharmacy*  
XAVIER UNIVERSITY



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# SPELMAN STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM GOLDMAN SACHS COMMITMENT TO HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



Fifteen Spelman College students will benefit from Goldman Sachs' recently announced five-year \$25 million commitment to Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

The commitment is tied to the Market Madness: HBCU Possibilities Program, a four-month class in finance fundamentals that offers students in-depth training and insight from Goldman Sachs professionals. The sessions will prepare students for the "Market Madness" case study competition.

In its inaugural year, 125 HBCU first- and second-year college students will receive hands on training and learn fundamental skills in a professional setting, to complement their coursework and extracurricular activities.

"Spelman congratulates our 15 students who won a place in Goldman Sachs' 'Market Madness,'" said Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D., president of Spelman. "Our thanks to Goldman Sachs for providing an opportunity for our students to acquire skills that will benefit them for a lifetime."

During the case study competition that concludes the program, students will have an opportunity to present to senior leaders at Goldman Sachs and compete for cash donations to their institutions, which will create a funding opportunity for future generations.

"I am interested in financial services and saw this program as an opportunity to supplement my classroom experience with exposure to 'real-world' business problems," said Spelman sophomore and economics major, Alexandra Jenkins. "Additionally, collaborating

with fellow HBCU students and Goldman Sachs professionals will broaden my perspectives and introduce me to new problem-solving methods."

time we believe it contributes to a more inclusive and dynamic economy and society."

## Market Madness: HBCU Possibilities Program Scholars

Candidate Name	Expected Grad Date	Major
Levene-Harvell, Nava	Sophomore	Computer Science
Strawn, Gabrielle	Sophomore	Economics
Franklin, Camille	Sophomore	Economics
Jenkins, Alexandra	Sophomore	Economics
Bennett, Imani	Sophomore	Political Science
Kwakye, Britney	Sophomore	Economics
Tejeda, Gia	Sophomore	Economics
Williams, Whitney	Sophomore	Political Science
Thomas, Anisah	Sophomore	Mathematics
Whitfield, Caroline	Sophomore	Economics
Haygood, Ariel	Sophomore	Economics
Manning, Aiyanna	Sophomore	Biology
Archibald, Hannah	Sophomore	Economics
Hunter, Jaden	Junior	Economics
Campbell, Mika	Freshman	Mathematics

marketmadness(2)(1)This commitment is part of Goldman Sachs' broader strategy to attract and develop a diverse workforce. A critical component of Goldman Sachs diversity strategy is its aspirational goal to double campus analyst hiring from HBCUs at the firm by 2025.

In addition to Spelman, the 2021 participating institutions include Florida A&M, Hampton University, Howard University, Morehouse College, Morgan State University, North Carolina A&T State and Prairie View A&M.

"Building upon our past efforts, today's partnership between Goldman Sachs and HBCUs is the natural next step in our longstanding commitment to developing the best talent available with the widest range of backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives," said David Solomon, chairman and CEO of Goldman Sachs. "It's a smart, long-term investment for the firm, it helps us better serve our clients, and over

Goldman Sachs will partner with additional HBCU institutions in the upcoming four years of the program. Each participating HBCU will receive a

grant from Goldman Sachs, ranging from \$250,000 to \$1 million, based on their student team's performance in the final case competition. Participating students will also receive a \$10,000 academic stipend upon completing the program. Academic stipends will be administered by UNCF, a Goldman Sachs Fund for Racial Equity partner, who also advised in the overall program design.

"For generations, HBCUs have had a track record of producing titans of industry and public service. I'm confident the students in our Market Madness: HBCU Possibilities Program will be no exception," said Asahi Pompey, global head of corporate engagement, Goldman Sachs. "HBCUs and Goldman Sachs have a shared commitment to excellence, achievement and striving. Not only are we investing in HBCU students, but also their institutions and the larger Black community."

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# FARM TO TABLE

Denzel T. Veale recently led the latest iteration in a movement amongst university students and the community to become more active in buying fresh fruits and vegetables through a mobile phone app and curbside pickup system, “Access: Farm to Table.” The Lithonia, Georgia native says he was inspired to create this program while completing his graduate research entitled, ‘Farmers Market Promotion and Programs to Rural and Food Desert Communities.’

Veale recently received his master’s in public health from Tuskegee University, however, before stepping foot on campus, Veale already had two degrees under his belt, from Miles College and Troy University. Veale says what led him to Tuskegee was his pursuit to study fitness, health promotions, and public health education.

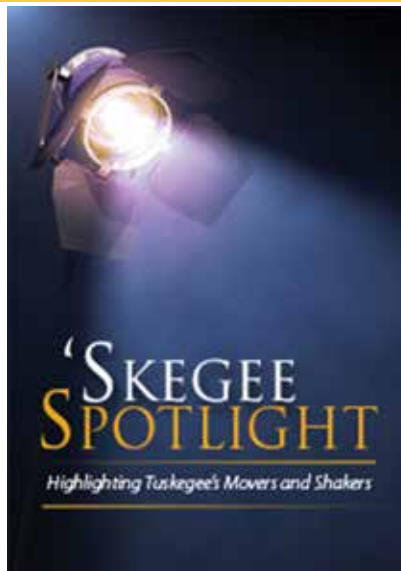
“While in college I was able to create and build a nonprofit organization called American Muscle Fitness Club Association that promotes health and wellness for the university, staff, public schools, and the community. The goal is to utilize all the connections and knowledge from the universities I’ve attended, along with my nonprofit experience and apply it to my current environment in Tuskegee,” noted Veale.

While in the graduate program at Tuskegee, Veale explored why the “farm to table” concept will likely shape our food future.

“The farm to table movement has been growing for years and since its beginning, people have wondered if it’s simply a passing fad or a new mainstay in the restaurant industry. Years later, farm to table is still going strong, so we can safely assume that it’s here to stay,” explained Veale.

Veale explained that he and his cohorts worked with a carefully selected list of vendors to ensure that the food is picked at peak freshness and is bursting with flavor.

“We know that this system has a lot of benefits including the opportunity to boost the local economy and support local farmers. The food is in fact local and doesn’t require a prolonged travel period, and having a local system allows for fewer greenhouse gases to be emitted into the atmosphere,” noted Veale.



## THERE’S AN APP FOR THAT



Veale said, with the countless apps available at your thumb, it was important to create an app that would allow people the convenience of accessing fresh fruits, vegetables, and products from local farmers.

The app features fruit and vegetable produce available weekly – options include individual item selection, all fruit or all vegetable baskets, mixed baskets, and crates.

“By shopping on the Access application, you are not only supporting local farmers, but you are also helping them plan their crops, leading to less waste and more of the fruits and veggies you love most,” he explained.

## Long-term plans

Veale has plans to open a health and smoothie bar, right outside of the campus, which he says would be convenient and within walking distance for students. The bar will feature farm to table smoothies, juices, and some hot healthy food selections.

“The goal of the health bar is to promote optimal health by connecting farmers, health products, campus, and the community. We take pride in providing our signature farm to table smoothies and health-event programs,” said Veale.

Veale says he already has a name for the establishment – the Access Health Bar, which is slated to open this spring.

“The main goal is to keep the legacy of Booker T Washington and George Washington Carver alive by casting down buckets where we are,” Veale added.

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# NCCU ACCORD RESEARCH ON COVID-19 VACCINE HESITANCY INFORMS NORTH CAROLINA'S STRATEGY FOR EQUITABLE OUTREACH AND DISTRIBUTION



As part of its partnership with North Carolina's Department of Health and Human Services to research public attitudes toward COVID-19, North Carolina Central University's Advanced Center for COVID-19 Related Disparities (ACCORD) new research study shows that communication about the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 coupled with local access to COVID-19 vaccination can significantly reduce vaccine hesitancy among historically marginalized people.

Researchers used in-person and paper surveys to reach those who are often overlooked by research that relies on phones and the internet for interviews. The result provides an on-the-ground perspective across diverse people and communities that is already informing North Carolina's communications and distribution strategy through ACCORD's partnership with NC Department of Health and Human Services.

"These results are encouraging and show that awareness campaigns and educational outreach are working and need to continue," says Deepak Kumar, Ph.D., director of the Julius L. Chambers Biomedical/Biotechnology Research Institute (BBRI) and founder of the ACCORD program. "Now we understand how to advance equity by getting people the information they need to make informed decisions and, most importantly, delivering on the equitable distribution of vaccines."

Since August 2020, the ACCORD team has provided over 50 testing events in underserved communities. The team has tested 3500 individuals and collected over 1500 surveys in two phases, before and after vaccines were approved by the FDA. The majority of respondents were from historically marginalized communities, African Americans, Latinos and American Indians.

Overall, 62% are now willing to take the vaccine, which is much higher compared to August-October of last year when only 26.7% indicated willingness to take the vaccine when it becomes available.

However, confidence is still lower in certain historically marginalized groups with only 50% of American Indian respondents willing to take the vaccine, versus 58% of Latinos and 63% of African Americans. The hesitancy was lowest among Whites, with 78% agreeing to take the vaccine.

The study also found differences by county. For example, Wake County respondents were more willing to take the vaccine, with 79% saying they would definitely or probably get it versus only 52% of those in Durham County. Only 49% of Robeson County respondents indicated their willingness to take the vaccine.

Hesitancy can be overcome by providing honest information about safety, effectiveness and side-effects, and by

making sure that people can go to a nearby location to get vaccinated.

"Once again, our partnership with ACCORD provides us with the data we need to meet our goals on equitable vaccination," said Ben Money, NCDHHS Deputy Secretary for Health Services. "This has already informed our outreach to historically marginalized communities and intensified our commitment to supporting more community partnerships for local vaccination sites, providing free transportation and focusing additional resources where there is the most hesitancy."

ACCORD is supported by the NC Policy Collaboratory with funding from the North Carolina Coronavirus Relief Fund established by the North Carolina General Assembly and leverages NCCU RCMI Center for Health Disparities funded by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD). NCCU ACCORD recently launched the BRAVE program focused on American Indians and funded by the NIMHD in partnership with the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina.

NCCU's ACCORD program is providing educational outreach, including the distribution of materials at COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites. As part of the initiative, results from the surveys are also shared with community members.



# WILEY COLLEGE DEVELOPS GRADUATE SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP WITH PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

By: Maya Brown

Pictured from left to right- Dr. Howard Gibson, Dr. Dorie Gilbert, Kendra Sharp, Dr. Robert Harper, Dr. Brandon Dumas, and Jonas Vanderbilt

Wiley College and Prairie View A&M University have established an undergraduate to graduate school pipeline for Wiley students. The collaboration will include set-asides reserved for Wiley students who wish to continue their education.

The partnership was the brainchild of Kendra Sharp, Director of Career Services at Wiley. In 2019, Sharp polled the senior class to get an idea of the soon-to-be graduates' plans following departure. Her survey results indicated that nearly 50% of students were interested in pursuing an advanced degree at the Masters and Ph.D. level. She explains that she made an immediate decision to organize a "top-tier" grad fair.

"From the time I started here, students at Wiley had such respect for and showed a lot of deference to Prairie View. When PV came and presented at the grad fair, they were swarming over to their set up," says Sharp.

Wiley students echoed each other's desire to attend a graduate school in Texas that had tuition costs comparable to Wiley's. Sharp recalls quickly

realizing that establishing a direct pipeline to the graduate school could be highly impactful for graduating seniors.

"I thought, 'let's set something up so we can be intentional about this,'" says Sharp, who then contacted Dr. Robert Harper, a consultant with Prairie View's Office of Graduate Studies, to schedule information sessions.

"He even came [to Wiley] to sit in the cafe with us for fried chicken Wednesdays, which was really great," she explains.

Harper has a history of being able to recruit Wiley students to PV graduate-level programs. Due to his work at a couple of UNCF schools in East Texas, Harper explains that he was very familiar with Wiley College.

During his February visit, Harper garnered the interest of several students, noting that many of them were particularly inquisitive about the Community Development, Sociology, and Business Administration graduate programs.

Ten Wiley graduates transitioned as part of the 2019 cohort. Kendra Sharp hopes that the partnership continues to see growth.

"It's a family affair. Prairie View wants to fill their classrooms with students

they've been able to build a relationship with," she says.

She also notes that Dr. Harper has been key in the recruitment process and goes as far as placing phone calls to students to inquire about the status of their applications.

PV's partnership will offer incentives to Wiley students, including waived application fees, waived test scores, and on-campus housing stipends.

"I am very excited about the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Prairie View A&M University. The MOU is a win-win partnership for both institutions; The agreement allows students to transition seamlessly to the next educational level (Graduate School) and for an affordable price while not having to leave the state," says Dr. Howard Gibson, Wiley College's Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Students can expect to receive frequent emails from the Office of Career Services regarding workshops and information sessions on transitioning into the Prairie View graduate program.

There is currently no cap on the number of students they are accepting via this partnership. All graduating seniors who maintain a 3.0 GPA are invited to inquire and apply.



# BUTLER AND SHERRER NAMED RECIPIENTS OF THE 431 EXCHANGE WINTER 2021 SCHOLARSHIP

D'Asysa Butler (Social Work major), Anthony Jones (Master of Social Work candidate), and Megan Sherrer (Master of Social Work candidate) were three of eight recipients chosen for The 431

Exchange Winter 2021 Scholarship. Jones was previously highlighted for this achievement.

Each student has a unique story that can be found on [www.431exchange.org/news](http://www.431exchange.org/news). In spite of the past year's challenges these students have found courage and determination through the role models of parents and grandparents, and from compassionate allies at Jackson State University.

The 431 Exchange established a Scholarship Fund to award eight applicants with cash grants for continuing or vocational education in honor of the legacy of the Adult Education Center. Scholarships are \$1,431 each in two different categories: Legacy and General Awards. Legacy

Awards are open to descendants of the 431 graduates of The Adult Education Center, including: children, stepchildren, grandchildren, siblings, nieces and nephews. General Awards are open to the general public.

The Adult Education Center (AEC) on Exchange Place in New Orleans provided innovative vocational training to 431 inspirational women from 1965 to 1972. These women went on to become the first black secretaries to integrate the multinational corporations and local businesses of the city. Eventually their impact spread throughout the South and helped pave the way for equal employment opportunity for all American citizens. Jeanne and Jeff Geoffray, descendants of Alice Geoffray, the school's director, created The 431 Exchange: a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to advocate nationally on behalf of adult education and social justice issues.

For more information, please visit

[www.431exchange.org](http://www.431exchange.org).

# UNIVERSITY OF VIRGIN ISLANDS COMMUNICATION STUDENTS ESTABLISH THE FIRST NABJ STUDENT CHAPTER IN THE CARIBBEAN



The University of the Virgin Islands Communication Department students have founded the University of the Virgin Islands Association of Black Journalists (UVIABJ) student chapter, becoming the first student and only NABJ affiliate chapter in the Caribbean. At its annual October meeting, the executive board of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) made a unanimous decision to officially grant UVIABJ chapter status. NABJ is committed to; strengthening ties among Black journalists, sensitizing all media to the importance of fairness in the workplace for Black journalists and expanding job opportunities and recruiting activities for veteran, young and aspiring Black journalists, just to name a few.

UVIABJ joins 883 professional and student journalists from 11 states and 33 student chapters as part of Region III of NABJ. “Welcome to the NABJ family,” said Dorothy Tucker, NABJ president. “We are thrilled to have our first NABJ chapter from the USVI and ‘tickled black’ it’s a group of young aspiring journalists.”

“Congratulations to our students in the Communication Department,” said Dr. Kimarie Engerman, dean for the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS). “Being granted membership exposes our students to careers in journalism, the chance to

network with other Black journalists, as well as scholarship and internship opportunities,” added

Engerman. “I encourage all students at UVI to take advantage of this opportunity.” Founding members Maxiene Cabo, Jada Roberts, George Francis, Kalyna Nielsen, Lana Cuffy, and Nikiyah Gerson will serve as executive board members under the largest organization of journalists of color in the nation.

“Indeed, this is a monumental achievement for students in the Communication Department,” said Dr. Sharon Albert Honore, associate professor of Communication and faculty advisor. “The founding members of UVIABJ demonstrated tenacity and dedication in their initiative to establish affiliation with NABJ, renowned for its efforts to increase racial diversity in the media arena,” added Honore.

NABJ chapters primarily comprise of full-time, freelance and student journalists as well as media-professionals. UVIABJ and other student chapters agree to follow strict

journalistic guidelines which include adherence to ethical rules of conduct.

In alignment with NABJ rules, UVIABJ plans to execute programs which benefit student journalists as well as members of the community. “We look forward to serving our community and representing the department, our University and the VI in newsrooms across America and the world,” said Maxiene Cabo, UVIABJ chapter president. The UVIABJ student chapter consists of more than 20 active members on the St. Thomas and Albert A. Sheen campuses.

“We are proud to be affiliated with NABJ,” said George Francis, UVIABJ secretary. “We hope being granted chapter status encourages other professional and student journalists on neighboring islands to also establish NABJ chapters.”

Founded on Dec. 12, 1975, by 44 men and women in Washington D.C., NABJ is an organization of journalists, students and media-related professionals that provide quality programs and services to and advocates on behalf of Black journalists worldwide.



# WHAT'S HOT ON THE NET!

WELCOME BACK TO BCT'S WHAT'S HOT ON THE NET! WE'RE GIVING YOU THE LATEST NEWS ON CELBRITIES ACROSS THE WORLD! SO LET'S GET INTO IT!!!

Shout out to **Young Hov aka Jay-Z** as it was recently announced he and **Twitter and Square** founder, **Jack Dorsey**, have created a **Bitcoin** fund. Jack Dorsey tweeted that he and Jay-Z are the partners of the fund and they are looking for board members. Jack also indicated the fund will focus on India and Africa. Bitcoin remains in the news as the most notable and well known form of cryptocurrency. **Elon Musk** recently announced that **Tesla** has invested in Bitcoin and the company should begin accepting Bitcoin as payment for their products in the near future!

As if that is not enough, congrats go out to the big homie Jay-Z. Hov has been nominated for the **Rock & Roll Hall of Fame!** Currently, Jay-Z and **Michael B. Jordan** are working together to produce a new series about the life of **Muhammad Ali!** Is there anything Jay-Z cannot do??!!

**American Ballet Theatre** legend and superstar, **Misty Copeland** is currently writing a new book titled **Black Ballerinas.** Misty is using this opportunity to shed the light on African-American ballerinas who are lesser known but contributed significantly to the art form. **Black Ballerinas** is definitely going to inspire younger girls of color and we are here for it! This will not be Misty's first book. She published **Life in Motion, Firebird and Bunheads.** Pick those up if you haven't already. **Black Ballerinas** will be released later this year in November.

Issa Vibe! Your favorite duo is working with **Issa Rae** for a new series! We're talking about the one and only **City Girls!** A half an hour comedy on **HBO** is in the works which shows two high school friends coming together to form a rap group. Issa Rae and **City Girls** will come together as the executive producers of the show! Production for

the show starts in the summer!

Be on the lookout for **Teyana Taylor's** next project! She is going to star as the legendary **Dionne Warwick** in an upcoming project which Teyana might also direct! We're looking forward to more news about the project but we're glad to see Teyana shine!

**Justin Combs, son of Diddy,** now has his own late night talk show on Revolt TV! The show debuted on Valentine's Day. If you don't have Revolt TV, you can check it out on YouTube! We see you, Justin!

Speaking of Diddy, be sure to watch **Biggie: I Got A Story to Tell on Netflix.** Diddy produced the documentary which has been in the works for years and it is well worth the wait!

THAT'S IT FOR THIS EDITION OF WHAT'S HOT ON THE NET. BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE LATEST CELEBRITY NEWS IN THE NEXT EDITION OF BCT!!!

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