ISSUE #1

Frank and Rubena Adams MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP NEWSLETTER

April 10, 2025



Greetings!

I hope this message finds you in great spirits.

On behalf of the Frank and Rubena Adams Memorial Scholarship Committee, we sincerely thank you for your generous past support.

We are excited to share inspiring news about our scholars! In 2023, we awarded two scholarships, and thanks to your contributions, we expanded our impact to eight scholarships in 2024. So far, in 2025, we have already awarded one scholarship, with more on the horizon.

Our recipients are achieving remarkable milestones—excelling academically, participating in community service initiatives, and transforming their lives while inspiring those around them.

The financial support of our college students has become crucial. Many universities are experiencing funding cuts. Some federal grants and loans are being reduced or phased out. As a result, we are receiving an increasing number of applications from students facing scholarship deficits.

We invite you to donate today. Your contribution, regardless of size, will enable us to respond swiftly and ensure that more deserving students can continue their educational journeys without interruption.

Together, we can positively impact the lives of these students and help foster the next generation of leaders and change-makers.

Sincerely,

Sharonese Henderson

Mrs. Sharonese Henderson,
President

Ms. Sharita Henderson,
Secretary

Judge Darron Bowden,
Tennessee State University Chair

Ms. Deborah Mitchell,
Jarvis Christian University Chair







"We must feed young minds. Our thoughts are the seeds that grow our conditions. Whatever we achieve, must first be a thought before it can become a reality. What you think, say and plan for is what you will achieve."

Frank Adams

A Lasting Legacy of Supporting College Students

Frank and Rubena Adams met during a summer semester at Tennessee State University (TSU). They were married for 56 years and were members of the TSU Alumni Association. Also, they were educators with Chicago Public Schools for over 30 years.

Mr. Adams served as Vice-President of the Chicago Chapter of the Jarvis Christian College/Southern Christian Institute National Alumni Association. He was also inducted into the Jarvis Pioneer Hall of Fame in 2000. Mrs. Adams served as the chapter's secretary. They were very passionate about providing young people with the tools to succeed in life and recruited students for over 45 years.

The Frank and Rubena Adams Memorial Scholarship provides emergency aid to college students via scholarship funds established through donations and fundraising. The scholarship aims to assist juniors and seniors who attend Jarvis Christian University in Hawkins, TX, and Tennessee State University in Nashville, TN, that may face financial challenges in completing their education.

In addition, the scholarship will reward students with academic excellence, on-campus participation, exemplary community service, and a commitment to participate in alumni activities after graduation. Eligible applicants must have unmet financial needs as verified by the financial aid office where they attend.

The award ranges from $500 - $2000 and is expected to be applied toward tuition, room, board, books, or graduation expenses.

The Frank and Rubena Adams Memorial Scholarship has been:

- Established for African American or Black students that are U.S. citizens
- Designated for college juniors and seniors only
- Created to provide emergency funds to students that can demonstrate financial need
- Limited to full-time students seeking a bachelor's degree at Tennessee State University or Jarvis Christian University.

Students from other universities will be considered if funds are available.

There is not a deadline date to apply for this scholarship. Students may apply based on a financial emergency that may arise.



Meet Our Scholars

Scholarship Award Spring 2023



Jhavier' Law, Business Administration
Jarvis Christian University

Jhavier' is a Senior Business Administration Major with a Concentration in Management at Jarvis Christian University. He was born and raised on the south side of Chicago, IL. He hopes to affect changes in economic development, policies and procedures, and infrastructure within low-income communities. He also wants to create changes in social and legislative issues.

Jhavier' is a White House Initiative on HBCUs Scholar Alum, a former Mr. Jarvis Christian University, a member of the Texas Democratic Party's Presidential Preference Committee, and a National Delegate for the 2024 Democratic National Convention Texas delegation.

He was one of the youngest DNC National delegates and the youngest person in Texas to win the Presidential Preference Committee position for the Texas Democratic Party.

Currently, he is a Fellow in the UNCF Transformation Fellowship, where he is creating a program for mentorship and career readiness on the JCU campus. He also volunteers as a social media ambassador for the Texas Democratic Black Caucus while fighting on the front lines as the leading young voice for civic engagement in East Texas.

Committed to being a public servant, he is studying for law school and continues to stay involved within his community. He is scheduled to graduate in May 2025.

He wants to let children know that despite where they come from, they can do anything their heart desires because once you dream it and believe it, you will surely achieve it.

"Your compassion and support have had a positive influence on my life, and I will always be appreciative of them."

Scholarship Award Fall 2023



Telyn Hayes
Music
Tennessee State University

Telyn is a talented singer and producer. She maintained a full-time job while being a full-time student. She is a member of the Sigma Alpha Iota International music fraternity and is currently starting a business. She is scheduled to graduate in May 2025.

"This scholarship would help tremendously on my journey!"

Scholarship Award Spring 2024



Michael Carter
Music Education
Tennessee State University

Michael was the first African American Eagle Scout out of the legendary Troop 97, one of the oldest troops in Northern Mississippi. He received the Director's Choice Award for Outstanding Rookie of the Year. He is a member of the National Honor Society, TSU Leadership, Call Me Mister, and past President of the National Association for the Music Education chapter. Michael is a member of the "Aristocrat" of Marching Bands, the Wind Ensemble, and the Meistersingers Choral Ensemble.

Continued
Michael Carter

In addition, he formed the HBCU Roundtable for Future Music Educators. He is scheduled to graduate in May 2025.

"Thank you for investing in my education. Your investment in me will not be a risk but rather a form of compound interest. I hope to be able to share with you the results of my future success and to return your investment."



Makayla Bracey
Cardiorespiratory Care Science
Tennessee State University

Makayla was a Football Team Operations and Recruiting Assistant. She has volunteered in community service initiatives related to healthcare and wellness. She is on the Dean's List and is on target to graduate in May 2025. She plans to attend medical school after obtaining her bachelor's degree.

"Thank you all so much for your contribution to my success."



Dasia Westerfield, B.S.
Social Work
Jarvis Christian University

As a dedicated Social Work Intern at the U.S. House of Representatives, Dasia Westerfield Is actively involved in expanding the Social Work Caucus, an effort that aligns with her passion for advocacy and policy reform. Simultaneously, as a Social Work Fellow at CRISP, Dasia focuses on policy analysis and collaboration with legislators, reinforcing her commitment to evidence-based practices. These roles perfectly complement her academic pursuit of a Master of Social Work at Howard University, where she specializes in community administration and policy practice. She graduated from JCU in May 2024.

"Receiving this scholarship will allow me to continue chasing my dreams. Your earnest investment in my future goals will not be forgotten."



Christian Muimba
Biology
Tennessee State University

Christian is a Youth Leader and is very involved in the church he attends. He shares his love for biology to encourage youth to learn more about the sciences. He was an Honor's Scout, on the Dean's List, and received the Director's Choice Award for Outstanding Rookie of the Year. His goal is to attend medical school and become a doctor. He is on target to graduate in May 2025.

"I believe when I become a doctor, I will return to elementary schools, high schools, and colleges to inspire children to attend medical school. I want to become an inspiration and motivator."



Zyair Henderson
Psychology
Tennessee State University

Zyair is on the Dean's List and is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, the First Ladies Club, and the Hip'Notyze Dance Troupe. She plans to graduate in May 2025 and will pursue a master's degree in counseling and psychology.

"Beyond the tangible benefits, this scholarship instills a sense of responsibility to excel academically and give back to the community. It reminds me of the importance of genuine efforts and the impact they have on students' lives. I am committed to making the most of this opportunity and am inspired to contribute positively to society, just as you have done for me."



Jamyaha Cleckley
Computer Science
Tennessee State University

Jamyaha participates in multiple tech organizations on campus. She is a member of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), and the Pre-Alumni Council of Community Service. She is on the Dean's List and secured an Applied Research Institute (ARI) summer internship in Cybersecurity research at NCAT. She is interested in tech careers like Cybersecurity, Data Analytics, and Software Development. She is planning to graduate in December 2025.

"I am grateful for the difference you have made in my life. I look forward to the day I am in your shoes and able to pay forward and help other students like me achieve their dreams."



Trinity Whitehead, Business Administration
Tennessee State University

Trinity founded the Ladies of Virtue and Excellence program that connects young ladies with experienced women from various backgrounds to discuss uncomfortable circumstances. She volunteers at the Nashville Food Bank and works multiple jobs while attending school full-time. She is planning to graduate in May 2026.

"I am determined to set a high standard for my siblings and future generations, empowering them to recognize their potential and excel in society."



Monica Lopez
Biological Science
Tennessee State University

Monica is a member of the National Honor Society, Mathletes, and Captain of the Memphis Business Academy Volleyball Team. She participates in community service programs with the Girl Scouts and the Big Sister Program. She is a Children's Ministry Teacher at St. John Missionary Baptist Church and Rocketship Dream Prep Assistant Soccer Coach. Monica would like to pursue an advanced degree in Optometry. She is on target to graduate in May 2025.

"Thank you for believing in me and for investing in my future. I am determined to make the most of this opportunity and, one day, to help others find their paths just as you have helped me."



Khiana Rudd, Business Administration/Supply Chain Management
Tennessee State University

Khiana is on the Dean's List, a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, Supply Chain Management Organization, and a Recruiting Assistant for the Tennessee State University Football Team. She volunteers at Feed the City Church and works with immigrant and refugee women to enhance their English-speaking skills at "Ladies Let's Talk." She is planning to graduate in May 2026.

"The support from this scholarship not only helps me pursue my academic goals but also inspires me to continue striving for excellence in my education and future career."



ABOUT US

The Frank and Rubena Adams Memorial Scholarship invests in African American college juniors and seniors who attend Jarvis Christian University in Hawkins, TX, and Tennessee State University in Nashville, TN.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Your donations will help students alleviate the burdens of outstanding balances, including tuition and unpaid fees, who are on the cusp of completing an upcoming semester or graduation.

WHO CAN APPLY

The Frank and Rubena Adams Memorial Scholarship was established to provide emergency funds for students who are:

- African American U.S. citizens that demonstrate financial need
- Full-time juniors and seniors seeking a bachelor's degree at Tennessee State University or Jarvis Christian University.

Donate Here!

Donations can be made to:
Frank and Rubena Adams Memorial Scholarship
P.O. Box 540
Antioch, TN 37011
or accepted by:
Park Manor Christian Church Credit Union

CONTACT US

Adamsmemorialscholarship@gmail.com



Juniors and Seniors attending TSU and JCU

Apply Now!

Adamsmemorialscholarship@gmail.com