

**Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education, Inc.  
Philadelphia, PA  
Eastern Region**

**52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference**

**April 7-8, 2022**

**Theme**

**“REACH – Race, Economics, Academics, COVID-19, and Health”**

**Scholarship Booklet**

## The K. Leroy Irvis PBCOHE Scholarship

### *Western Region*

#### **Ms. Jada Woods**

Junior

The Pennsylvania State University

GPA: 3.45

Major: Chemical Engineering

Jada Woods is a junior at Penn State University, majoring in chemical engineering. Hailing from Pittsburgh, PA, Jada finds her purpose lies in making an impact in her community through giving back to younger students and sharing joy with everyone she comes in contact with. Her extracurricular activities at Penn State include her involvement with the Penn State National Society of Black Engineers Chapter (NSBE), Chemical Engineering Honor Society, Omega Chi Epsilon (OXE), and serving on the executive board for Unity Christian Campus Ministries (UCCM). In her free time, she loves listening to music and playing the piano, spending time with family and friends, and participating in nature walks and recreational sports. If there was a quote she would model her life after, it would be, "you're blessed to be a blessing."

## ***Eastern Region***

### **Ms. Macawi Delores Amena Thomas-EL**

Junior

Cheyney University of Pennsylvania

GPA: 4.00

Major: Social Relations (Criminal Justice Concentration)

Macawi Thomas-EL is a junior at Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, majoring in Criminal Justice and minoring in psychology. She currently maintains a cumulative grade point average of 4.0, and is involved in several campus organizations including the Cheyney University Psychology Club, the Cheyney University Honors Academy, and the Delta Iota Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Most recently in November, Macawi was appointed the President of her undergraduate chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha and serves as a delegate for the North Atlantic Region. She spearheads the Chapter Archives Committee which aims to maintain an accurate account of all Chapter history and records since its chartering in 1954. Outside of Cheyney University, Macawi is the founder and chairwoman of Black Delco Speaks, which seeks to provide a safe space for Black students in predominantly white Delaware County High Schools. Additionally, Macawi holds two district and one state championship title from the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association. In her free time, she enjoys following politics, writing, and spending time with her family.

## ***Central Region***

### **Ms. Hilarie Muan Gbotoe**

Junior

Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology

GPA: 3.81

Major: Water and Environmental Technology

My name is Hilarie Muan Gbotoe. I am a 27-year-old single mother of an amazing 9-year-old boy. I am from Liberia (West Africa). I am a first-generation immigrant. I came to America when I was eight years old with my family. I am currently a U.S. citizen. My objective in life is to become a better version of myself every day, continue to influence the youth in every way, shape or form positively, make an impact in my community and church.

I was brought up in a musical household. My father is a pastor who plays every instrument with his brothers, while my mother is a singer/songwriter; to follow in my parent's footsteps, I play the drums for his church, have created instrumental beats for people to use as background music for their YouTube videos. I have volunteered every year for the Rafiki African Festival in downtown Lancaster, PA as a model or dancer. I have volunteered at recreational centers to be an assistant coach or an apprentice. I love to dance, and I teach a style of dancing called Afrobeats. My goal is to raise awareness and bring the knowledge of West African culture to the public. As I further my education at Thaddeus Stevens College, I will obtain my degree in Water and Environmental Technology, and begin a lifelong career in a field that will allow me to make a difference in the lives of many.

## **W. Terrell Jones Equity Scholarship**

### **Ms. Kalika Colbert**

Senior

Delaware County Community College

GPA: 3.54

Major: Nursing

I was born in West Philadelphia and raised by my mother along with my 2 sisters. I went to Daroff Elementary School, Julia R. Masterman Middle School, and Overbrook High School. I worked throughout high school as a cashier to help support my household and save for college. I took classes at Community College of Philadelphia and earned my Associates degree in Social and Behavioral Science. I have always valued education and currently home school my 3 children with the help of my husband. I work part time as a peer mentor at Delaware County Community College and PRN at Lankenau Medical Center with COVID-19 patients. My goal is to become a nurse practitioner and specialize in Women and Children's Health. It is my purpose in life to become an asset to families in low-income communities. My dream is to manage my patients clinical care and coordinate additional onsite services including mental health, nutrition, preventive care, dental, physical fitness, and chronic disease management.

## **Robert D. Lynch Leadership Scholarship**

### **Mrs. Shantia McCoy-Jones**

Graduate Student

Widener University

GPA: 3.84

Major: Ph.D. Nursing Science (Nursing Education)

Currently field-based at the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center-Living Center in Philadelphia, PA as an Education/Wound Care Specialist. Shantia was the first African American to earn a Bachelor of Science Degree (BSN) from Mansfield University/Robert Packer School of Nursing. Shantia began her career in critical care nursing and observed the lack of diversity in critical nursing education. She was offered an opportunity to teach undergraduate education which supported her passion for education, diversity, mentoring and wound care. She earned the MSN in Adult Health Nurse Practitioner and post masters in Family Nurse Practitioner; Nursing Education; and Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing from LaSalle University.

Shantia is passionate about mentoring inter-professionals to reach career and professional goals. She developed a career development educational program to provide staff with knowledges, resources, and tools to guide staff in their development as leaders, mentors and clinical professionals. Shantia is married to an Air Force Veteran, Eric Jones, and she is a mother to his son, Dominique.

## **Esther-Jafari Haymon Scholarship**

### **Mr. Jaron Felder**

Senior

West Chester University of Pennsylvania

GPA: 3.86

Major: Communication Arts

Born in Philadelphia, PA. My name is Jaron Felder and I am a communications student who earned an Associate's degree from Delaware County Community College. I am a photographer who loves traveling and capturing amazing images. I am currently a senior communication scholar enrolled at West Chester University expecting to graduate in May 2022. I plan to acquire a master's degree in Human Resources and find a career in the field.

## **John S. Shropshire Graduate Scholarship**

### **Ms. Brianna McBride**

Graduate Student

University of Pittsburgh

GPA: 3.76

Major: Applied Behavior Analysis

Brianna McBride is a current graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh's Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) program. A Philadelphia native, Brianna came to Pittsburgh to continue her higher education journey and has not left since. With a bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, in psychology also from the University of Pittsburgh, she is now working with children with autism and other developmental disorders at Pittsburgh Behavioral Services as a behavior technician. Brianna is passionate about making effective change in her career, especially through diversity and inclusion initiatives. Brianna strives to give her very best regardless of circumstances and is dedicated to serving exceptional children. Outside of the classroom, she is involved in focus groups for increasing diversity within the field of ABA and serves on the service committee of the Council for Graduate Students in Education. Brianna is beyond grateful for this scholarship opportunity.

## **Judith A. W. Thomas High School Scholarship**

### **Ms. Jaleah Donyae Bowman-Blanton**

Coatesville Area Senior High School

GPA: 4.00

Fall 2022, Cheyney University

### **Mr. Jaden C. Felder**

School Lane Charter School

GPA: 2.54

Fall 2022, West Chester University

### **Mr. Jadon Heath**

The Mathematics, Civics and Sciences Charter School

And

Settlement Music School, Wynnefield Branch

GPA: 3.9

Fall 2022, Community College of Philadelphia

