



# 2023 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

PRESENTED BY

Michael J. Weiss, Financial Advisor, Morgan Stanley

*Strengthening*

**STUDENTS  
TO SOAR**





# THE HORD FOUNDATION



## *Our* HISTORY

The Hord Foundation traces its beginning to 1988 and two ordinary people who simply wanted to give back to their community. Noel and his late wife Cora Hord, a Danbury, CT couple, wanted their gift to be special and have a significant meaning; the Hord's decided to provide scholarships for the education of deserving and disadvantaged youth. Together with their friends and neighbors, each of whom contributed \$25 to attend a holiday party at the Hord's home, \$2,700 was raised and the origins of the Hord Foundation, Inc. was established.

Since its humble founding, the Hord Foundation, Inc. has provided financial assistance to deserving and qualified students. After nearly 30 years, the Foundation has awarded well over \$5 million dollars in scholarships.

## *Our* MISSION

The Mission of the Hord Foundation is to encourage and reward excellence among African American scholars in the greater Danbury area by providing scholarships, offering support programs, and building a connected community.

## *Our* FUNDING

Funding for our the Annual Hord Foundation scholarships is provided by the generous support of Corporation Partners, Family Foundations and approximately a multitude of individual donors, all of who share our commitment to encourage excellence in education.

*The Hord Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization*

# SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER



## KEISHA SMITH-DAVIS

Dr. Keshia Smith-Davis, Principal of Great Plain Elementary School, in Danbury Public Schools, has been named the Connecticut Association of Schools' (CAS) 2023 Elementary School Principal of the Year.

Dr. Smith-Davis began her career as a public school educator in New York and Virginia before joining Danbury Public Schools in 2004 as Principal of Great Plain Elementary School. After assuming the leadership role, Dr. Smith-Davis set out to establish a school culture conducive to learning and personal development.

Her vision and leadership have culminated in a host of recognitions and awards for her school. In 2022, Great Plain Elementary School received the National Blue-Ribbon Award for closing the achievement gap. Between 2018 and 2020, Great Plain was in the top 10% statewide for student growth and performance, and was also named a Connecticut School of Distinction.

Dr. Smith-Davis stated, "Culture, climate, a change in mindset, and believing you, the principal, are responsible for moving the school is very important. If you do not believe you are the change agent for the school, nothing will change."

Dr. Smith-Davis attributes much of her students' success to the relationships she and her staff develop with parents, and the ability to partner with them in helping their children reach their full academic achievement. "Parents want to do what is best for their children and are always willing to commit time to their child's education," stated Dr. Smith-Davis.

Dr. Smith-Davis reviews student data and information with the staff, student, and parent community. She feels it's important for students to know where they are as learners. Parents receive regular progress monitoring updates as well as materials and online activities from their homeroom teachers to promote learning. Dr. Smith-Davis believes that incentives and community partnership is necessary to improve achievement.

# MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES & STUDENT SPEAKER



**BRIANNE GUYTON**  
**MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES**

Brianne Guyton-Monteiro is a 2x Hord Foundation Scholar. Brianne graduated from Danbury High School. She holds a bachelor's degree from Western Connecticut State University and a Master's degree from New York University. Brianne has 10+ years of Global Supply Chain and Project Management experience. She is currently the Director of Global Brand Value Chain at The Estee Lauder Companies for the Estee Lauder and Aerin Beauty brands where she is an active member of their Women's Leadership Network.



**DAIQUAN THOMAS**  
**STUDENT SPEAKER**

Daiquan Thomas is a 2019 graduate of Danbury High School and a 4-year Hord Scholarship recipient. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Springfield College (2023) with a double major in Accounting and Business Management. Currently he is a graduate student at Northeastern University pursuing a Masters in Accounting (MSA), and a Fellow at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC).

*"Educate your sons and daughter, send them to school and show them  
that beside the cartridge box, the ballot box and the jury box,  
you have also the knowledge box."*

*-Frederick Douglass*

# DONOR SPOTLIGHT

## THE TYNDALE AWARD, ESTABLISHED 2022

*"To whom much is given, much will be required" - Luke 12:48*

Anneka and Brandon Tyndale are both multi-year Hord Award recipients who firmly believe the support of the Hord Foundation has had a profound impact on the siblings' career journeys. Anneka, a Registered Nurse and Nurse Educator, and Brandon, an industry Electrical Engineer, are honored to establish an Award this year.

The Tyndale Scholarship will award two undergraduate students that are pursuing a degrees in either Engineering or Nursing. The siblings, knowing the challenges and hardships of being first generation college students, are delighted to support the advancement and education of local scholars in fields that not many Black Men and Women dominate.

## THE SHELIA D. LEE MEMORIAL AWARD, ESTABLISHED 2012

*" If I can help someone in my life, then my life was one that was worth living"*

Shelia D. Lee was born and raised in Greenwood, MS and received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Education from Jackson State University. Mrs. Lee and her "Creightons" (husband Creighton Sr and son Creighton Jr) were longtime fixtures in the Danbury community. Professionally, she held numerous positions with Beneficial Mortgage Corporation and was the proud recipient of the 1994 Beneficial Award for Outstanding Community Service. Shelia was actively involved in community organizations focused on promoting humanitarian projects and she was an inaugural fund raiser for the Hord Foundation. She was a faithful member of New Hope Baptist Church, an enthusiastic Obama supporter and boasted a love for fashion, decorating and home design.

Sadly, she lost her battle with breast cancer in 2012, but the spirit of her memory lives on in this Award ... underwritten annually in her loving memory by her "Creightons".

# OUR SCHOLARS

Glenn Addotey, Junior   Exercise Science	Western CT State University   Omokaro Family Scholarship   \$1,000
Grayce Amos, Freshman   Biomedical Engineering	Howard University   Cora Hord Award   \$3,500
Valerie Amponsah, Freshman   Pre-Med	University of Connecticut   Mavis A. Bennett Award   \$2,500
Christopher Arias Quijada, Sophomore   Computer Science	Connecticut State Community College   \$1,500
Christopher Baker, Freshman   Technical Theatre Design	National Broadcasting Corporation   \$2,000
Jah'Rie Barnes, Freshman   Engineering	Connecticut State Community College   \$1,500
Kay Ellen Bell, Sophomore   Marketing	Bard College   \$1,500
Kadence Belton, Freshman   Computer Science	University of Connecticut   Branson Ultrasonics Award   \$2,500
Jasmine Brown, Sophomore   Nursing	Hampton University   \$1,000
Taylor Bryan, Sophomore Psychological Sciences	University of Connecticut   Delta Sigma Theta Award   \$1,500
Jack Chapa, Freshman   Undecided	Connecticut State Community College   \$1,500
Andre Charles, Junior   Marketing	Northeastern University   \$1,000
Liam Clarke, Freshman   Computer Graphics	Northeastern University   Gaylen Kimbrue Award   \$1,500
Makaylee Coles, Freshman   Business Management	Central CT State University   \$1,000
Abigail Copeland, Junior   Biology	Western CT State University   \$1,000
Maya Council, Sophomore   Psychology	University of MA-Boston   \$2,000
Tanisha Cunningham, Senior   Nursing	University of Hartford   The Tyndale Award   \$1,000
Pedro Dalosse, Sophomore   Architecture/Design	Norwalk Community College   \$1,000
Ma-Lyke Davis, Junior   Political Science	Trinity College   \$1,000
Gloria Dickson, Senior   Political Science	University of Connecticut   Omokaro Family Scholarship   \$1,000
Caroline Dickson, Freshman   Kinesiology	University of MA - Amherst   \$NA
Samantha Feliz, Senior   Business Management	Western CT State University   \$1,000
Emelin Flores, Senior   Mechanical Engineering	University of Connecticut   The Tyndale Award   \$1,000
Joseph Gedeon, Freshman   Computer Science	University of Connecticut   National Broadcasting Corporation   \$2,000
Briana Gilliard, Sophomore   Business Management	Southern CT State Univ   William & Nada Albritton Award   \$1,500
Lauren Grant, Freshman   Biomedical Engineering	Yale University   Sally Ruggles Award   \$3,500
Khiya Harris, Junior   Justice and Law Admin	Western CT State University   \$1,000
Javon Hernandez, Senior   Sports Medicine	Auburn University   \$1,000
Sierrah Holder, Senior   Psychology	Southern CT State University   \$1,000
Aiden Howell, Freshman   Finance	Central CT State University   Newtown Savings Bank   \$1,500
Ethan Hutchins, Freshman   Communications	Syracuse University   Omega Psi Phi Award   \$1,500
Storm Jacobs, Senior   Biology	Nova South Eastern University   \$1,000
Christian Jeffers, Freshman	New York University   \$2,500

# OUR SCHOLARS

Ayinde Johnson, Senior   Communications	Long Island University   \$1,000
Dara Johnson, Sophomore   Human Development	Howard University   Myrna Turner Award   \$1,500
Nilaja Kariamu, Junior   Fashion Business Management	Fashion Institute of Technology   Shelia D. Lee Award   \$1,500
Aleah Kelly, Senior   Psychology	University of Bridgeport   \$1,000
Audrey Kpodar, Freshman   Chemistry	Duke University   The Hord Overall Excellence Award   \$4,000
Hannah Kwarteng, Sophomore   Political Science	Western CT State University   Alice Hyman Award   \$2,500
Gabriel Kwarteng, Junior   Exercise Science	Central CT State University   Alpha Phi Alpha Award   \$1,500
Jadon Lee, Freshman   Undecided	Western CT State University   Milton Brown Award   \$2,000
Yasmin Marques, Freshman   Nursing	Central CT State University   \$1,500
Joseph McCray, Sophomore   Exercise Science	Southern CT State University   \$1,000
Tzaddi Mckenzie, Sophomore   Computer Graphics	Pace University   National Broadcasting Corporation   \$2,000
Clinseanne Mebane, Senior   Psychology	Hunter College   \$1,000
Samora Merchant, Freshman   Political Science	University of MA- Boston   National Broadcasting Corporation   \$2,000
Nianna Perkins, Senior   Psychology	Bowie State College   Myrna Turner Award   \$1,000
Giselle Ramirez, Sophomore   Psychology	Western CT State University   William and Nada Albritton Award   \$1,500
Hennesy Rico, Junior   Biotechnology	Southern CT State University   \$1,000
Rachael Roberts, Freshman   Visual Studies	School of Visual Arts   National Broadcasting Corporation   \$2,000
Tianna Rogers, Junior   Business Analytics	Wheaton College   \$1,000
Alexandra Salem, Sophomore   Biomedical Engineering	University of CT   Nellie McKenzie & Ruby Sealy Award   \$1,500
Payge Shaw, Senior   Pre-Med	Eastern University   \$1,000
Jalen Simpson, Freshman   Computer Engineering	Morehouse College   Shauna and Lloyd Barker Award   \$2,500
Alanna Smith, Sophomore   Psychology	University of Tennessee   \$1,500
Isaiah Solis, Sophomore   Architecture/Design	Pratt Institute   \$1,000
Nia Sterling, Sophomore   Nursing	Southern CT State University   Alpha Kappa Alpha Award   \$1,500
Jasmine Stone, Senior   Biological Sciences	University of Connecticut   \$1,000
Aidan Tabora, Freshman   Accounting	Central CT State University   Byron Burney Award   \$1,500
Adaizah Tabora, Freshman   Social Work	Central CT State University   \$1,500
Ndeiye Tall, Senior   Political Science	Eastern CT State University   Omokaro Family Scholarship   \$1,000
Elijah Williams, Freshman   Business Management	University of Connecticut   Beyond the Dream Foundation   \$2,000
Isaiah Williams, Sophomore   Biomedical Engineering	University of Connecticut   Branson Ultrasonics Award   \$2,500
Kimberleigh Williams, Freshman   Health Administration	Western CT State University   Dr. Frederick Adams   \$2,000
Cheyla Williams, Freshman   Undecided	Lafayette University   \$2,500



# THANK YOU

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Your generosity made a difference

## OUR PRESENTING SPONSOR

Michael J. Weiss, Financial Advisor, Morgan Stanley

## SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CORPORATE SPONSORS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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