

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

**Sigma Iota Chapter 2023-24 Scholarship Recipients are doing well in their first year of college according to their testimonies!**



**Sydney Harris** is attending Brown University and is majoring in Sociology and Pre-Med.

Sydney states... "I used this scholarship award to help cover part of the tuition as well as other costs of attendance. I had to purchase a lot of textbooks and school supplies and this scholarship helped me cover it all, so I am very grateful. The cost of getting to my college campus from the airport was also expensive. Overall, this scholarship award helped alleviate stress from both myself and my family."

She has been active on campus during her first year. She explains, "I have been involved with Students for Educational Equity, a student organization that advocates for equitable admission policies at Brown and supports local Providence student groups. I also serve as a co-chair of the Research Committee of Brown Votes, where we work to increase voter registration and turnout on our campus. We have conducted student polls and compiled resources to help students become informed voters. I also volunteer at the Miriam Hospital, a local hospital in Providence, where I work in the emergency department. I help transport patients throughout the hospital, call patients from the waiting room, and help clean rooms. I also check in on patients and get them pillows and blankets to make sure they are comfortable. I also started working on a research project called the Jail and Prison Opioid Project. This project seeks to compile a national database of all of the jails and prisons in the US that offer medication for opioid use disorder, which is an effective treatment option that has yet to be implemented throughout the country.

Her goals for this academic year were to adjust to college and her schedule and to begin to explore her interests. She says, "I wanted to start a couple meaningful activities, both for pre-med and for my other interests, which I did so I am quite happy about that. I feel like I have a good footing and have found many activities to spend my time on. I really wanted to start getting clinical experience and research. I

love the research project I'm working on and the team. I also love the hospital environment and how much patient interaction I get.

As far as academic successes, Sydney says, "I completed my first semester with straight A's, which was an accomplishment. With these hard STEM classes, I am also learning how to build better, more efficient study habits. I also have explored my academic interests by taking courses in public health, linguistics, middle east studies, and history. I have also begun to establish a few relationships with professors and physicians that I hope to nurture throughout my time here.

Her career plans after graduation are to apply to medical school and matriculate into one. She says, "I haven't exactly determined if I will take a gap year after to work and have enough time to prepare my application and take the MCAT. But, I am sure that medical school is what's next for me."

She says "...thank you for the scholarship award. This has truly helped me so much and I am so grateful for the Sigma Iota Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity."

**Kira Johnson** is attending Southern University in her freshman year.

She says, "I used my scholarship award toward my housing for this school year. This year I lived off campus which was an added expense for my family. I was able to stay with some of my teammates which allowed us to create a conducive living environment where we could support each other both academically and athletically. By having this support, I was able to focus more on my studies and training without worrying excessively about rent and utilities. Additionally, living with teammates created a sense of camaraderie and motivation, which improved my overall college experience."

Kira has participated in the following activities so far: Softball Team, West Coast Connections Club, and the Association for Women Students.

She says, "My goals for the 2023-24 academic year were to excel in both my academics and athletics, prioritize time management to balance training and studies effectively, choose a set major, as well as get properly acclimated to life in an unfamiliar place.

One of my biggest academic successes from this year was the ability to declare a major. I am glad that I was able to do this because it helped me create a set plan for what I want to do for the rest of my academic career. I also was able to maintain a solid GPA while being a very busy student athlete."

Kira says, "after I graduate, I would like to potentially pursue a masters or doctoral program in chemistry or a related field, focusing on cosmetic science and formulation. Ultimately one day I hope to become a cosmetic scientist and test how different products have reactions with humans."

"I would like to again thank the Sigma Iota Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc for giving me this scholarship. It relieved a burden off of my family and overall made my freshman year at Southern University one to remember."

**Micah Youngblood** attends Howard University and is majoring in Marketing as a freshman.

He says he used the scholarship to pay off his bills; it helped a lot in getting a good chunk of money out of the way.

Micah has participated in the 21st Century Advantage Program (21 CAP), University Fashion Counsel (UFC), and Alternative Spring Break (ASB).

His goals for the 2023-24 academic year were to: “Maintain a high gpa so I can get more scholarships / keep the scholarships I already have. Make strong connections with other students. Network and get involved on campus.”

For his academic successes achieved so far, Micah states, “I have a high gpa. I’ve learned a lot about business already. I did really well in my applied calculus class, I earned an A on both the midterm and final. During office hours for my calc class, I helped other students learn the material. This also helped reinforce my knowledge in the subject.

Micah states career plans after graduation, “I plan to attend a fashion institute a year after I graduate from Howard University. I’m looking at either Parsons in New York or FIDM in Los Angeles. During the gap year, I will work and build my portfolio so I have a strong chance of getting accepted / getting a scholarship.

He comments: “Overall, I’ve had a great time at Howard and I can’t wait to see what else is to come in the rest of my time here. Thank you for investing in me! It really means a lot.

**Jordyn Diew** is a freshman attending the University of Southern California. Her major is popular music.

Jordyn states, “I used the scholarship award to help me pay some of my tuition. The scholarship also helped pay toward my housing, books, and meal plan.”

She says of her activities, “I’ve participated in the Black Student Association clubs and even won third place in the Black Student Association talent show. I’m in a mandatory band for my major but I joined a band outside of class with other art majors and we perform as many places around campus as possible. I also have become a regular national anthem singer for the women's and men’s basketball games.”

She states, “my goals were to get good grades and develop skills that either weren’t my strong suit, or I didn’t really know how to do at all. Like I really wanted to become a better performer and become more versatile with instruments. For the most part my teachers have seen me grow and I have gotten better at these things.” Jordyn says, “Academically, I have done very well. So far, I ended all of my classes with almost straight A’s and I made it onto the academic honor roll. I also have maintained perfect attendance all year. Jordyn plans to take up singing professionally and continue to write and produce her own music. She also says, “I am extremely grateful and appreciative of having this scholarship. My college tuition increases by 5% each year so it will get harder and harder to pay each year. I am thankful that I was at least able to get help paying this year because it made things much easier for my mom. Thank you so much again for selecting me, I am extremely grateful.”

**Jasmine Butilla** attends Los Positas College while majoring in Business Administration.

She says, "I used my scholarship money to pay for classes, and textbooks. I used the remain money to pay for gas and lunch while I am at school. It helped me a lot so that I could pay for all the required textbooks at the college."

Jasmine states, "I have participated in a Umoja program at my school, along with the Black Student Union. I also participated in and helped set up an open mic night at school.

My goals were to focus on maintain a good balance between school and work. I also wanted to join extracurricular activities and get more familiar with what is happening on campus. I also wanted to work more on my time management as well."

"So far, I have been getting better with my time management skills, I was also able to find an extracurricular that works for me. Right now, I am currently still finding a balance between school and work but I am getting a lot better with it by planning out each day."

Jasmine's career plans after graduation are to become a Product Marketing Manager, and hopefully own her own business one day.

She says, "I just wanted to say thank you again for awarding me with this scholarship it definitely did help me a lot over this current school year."

**Kimora Henry** currently attends Louisiana State University with a major in Finance.

She says, "I used my scholarship award to cover the remaining balances on my fee bill. It did more than help, it relieved all of my financial burdens for the year. I was able to have my entire freshman year fully paid for at no expense to myself or my family. I have been blessed to focus solely on my studies and not worry about how I would pay for my education."

She has been active by participating in while in: LSU Black Student Union, Tiger Prison Project, and the Future Black Women in Law Association.

She says, "my main goals for the 2023-24 academic year was to pass all of my classes, get involved on campus, build a relationship with at least 1 professor and network with upperclassmen. And, I passed all of my classes first semester and received a 4.0 GPA."

Kimora says, "after completing my undergraduate degree, I plan to go to law school and I will become an attorney. Thank you for supporting my collegiate journey, it is truly appreciated."

**Imani Johnson** is attending the University of California, Merced. His major is Management & Business Economics.

He says, "I used my scholarship award towards my tuition at UC Merced. It helped subsidize my cost of attendance, particularly during the Fall Semester 2023."

The activities (clubs, organizations, etc.) that he has participated in while in college so far are: UC Merced WBB Basketball Program and the Merced Chi Alpha {Student-Led Christian Fellowship}.

Imani's goals for the 2023-24 academic year were to: Play (and have success) on the basketball court, to join an on-campus organization, Make new friends. He has maintained a 3.5 GPA so far.

Imani's plans after college are to start and continuing growing his clothing brand And, become a high-level executive in the NBA or own an WNBA team.

**Adrienne Ashford** is attending Grambling State University with a major in Biology.

She says, "I used my scholarship award by paying for my tuition for the Fall 2023 first semester. This award helped so much because without the scholarship I don't know how I would've been able to pay for some of my tuition."

Adrienne has participated in several activities while in the Grambling State World Famed Tiger Marching Band and the Biology Club.

Her goals were to maintain good grades and balance school with extracurricular activities.

She says, "My academic success that I have achieved is maintaining my good grades throughout the school Year"

Adrienne says her career plans after she graduates is to attend medical school at Meharry medical school. "Thank you for this wonderful scholarship award I really appreciate it!"