



AJA 2021 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS



Aisha Hamilton

Aisha Hamilton was born in Miami, Florida, the first of seven children. She completed her high school education at Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology. During her time at Rockdale Magnet School, she completed 7 AP classes, was a member of the Announcement Club and Teens in The Driver Seat. Aisha also attended Rockdale Career Academy, where she had a construction class. That allowed her to be a part of the construction of a shed built for a family in need.

Aisha's love for numbers has led her to pursue a degree in accounting at Georgia State University.



Deana-Kay Taylor

Deana-Kay Taylor is a first generation incoming freshman at the University of the West Indies, Mona where she will pursue the Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. She will graduate from the UWI Mona in the year 2024 with a focus in either Structural or Environmental Engineering, or a combination of both.

Deana-Kay has repeatedly made great strides during and after her seven-year tenure at her alma mater, the Morant Bay High School, where she copped several awards and recognition. This is inclusive of, but not limited to the: MBHS Top CSEC Achiever 2018, Bertram A. Anderson Scholarship (2018), PATH Never Been Absent Scholarship 2019, MBHS PTA Scholarship 2020, NCB St. Thomas Parish & I.C.O.N. Champion 2020, Governor General's Achievement Award 2020 and Atlanta Jamaican Association Scholarship 2021.

In the near future, Deana-Kay hopes to establish a *Study & Grow with Me Programme* during her tenure at UWI. She longs to establish a scholarship and mentorship foundation for the youths of Jamaica.

Aiden Heath-London

Aiden Heath-London was born in Brooklyn, New York and moved to Georgia with his family. He attended the Riverwood International Charter High School located in Sandy Springs, Georgia where he received several awards for academics and participated in band, S.T.E.M. program and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. During COVID he did dual enrollment at Georgia Military College and Georgia State University, earning valuable college credits and graduating high school one year early.

Aiden aspires to be a Petroleum Engineer and will attend Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He was an active member of Student Ministry, Men's Prayer Group, and mentoring young men at New Hope Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Georgia and plans to continue mentoring young men through Ministry at a local Baptist Church in Baton Rouge.





Shaqkira Emmanuel

Shaqkira Emmanuel is an eighteen-year-old graduate of Manchester High School who aspires to become a biomedical engineer. She has been accepted to attend the University of West Indies, Mona where she will pursue a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in Biomedical Engineering.

At the age of fifteen, she sat her first set of CXC examinations attaining all seven subjects that year. Since then, Shaqkira has attained a total of seventeen CXC subjects (13 CSEC subjects and 4 CAPE subjects). Not only is Shaqkira excelling academically but she is also a natural-born leader. This is evident through the multiple positions of responsibility that she has held during her tenure at the Manchester High School. Amongst these positions are: prefect, sub-prefect, form-captain, deputy form-captain and vice president of the Modern Languages Club.

It is Shaqkira's wholehearted belief that a little can go a far way. Hence she has been involved in rejuvenation projects, beach clean-up projects, youth empowerment programmes and various visits to school and homes such as the JAD Maypen Unit for the deaf, the Hanbury Home for Children, and the New Hope Children's Home.

Deandra Roberts

Deandra Roberts is a graduate of DeCarteret College High School in Manchester, Jamaica. After taking a class in Clothing and Textiles, Deandra discovered her passion and talent for sewing and started a business sewing and selling satin bonnets, scrunchies, headbands and pillowcases.

She will pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Fashion Design and minor in Animation and Photography at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Atlanta, Georgia and dreams of some day becoming a stylist to the stars.

Deandra is driven by her strong belief in her abilities and daily reminder of and God's promise in Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." She also lives by the mindset that "You only get out of life, what you are prepared to put in."





Damor McQueen

Damor McQueen is a Jamaican Youth Leader who was born in the parish of St. Thomas, on May 19, 2001. He attended the Middleton Basic School and later the Middleton Primary School. Upon finishing his primary education, he was accepted to the prestigious Morant Bay High School where he served as president and leader of numerous clubs, Students' Council President and Head Boy. Damor remains passionate about personal as well as youth development. He is a Transformation Ambassador/Volunteer at NexxStepp Lifelong Educational Services in St. Thomas, Jamaica where he enjoys impacting the lives of youth positively. As a catalyst for change, he has and continues to serve as Youth Mayor for the parish of St. Thomas and was recently commissioned IBI Ambassador by His Excellency the Most Honorable Sir Patrick Allen, Governor General of Jamaica.

In addition to serving in the above mentioned capacities, Damor is President of MasterPeace Jamaica, the Jamaican branch of the internationally recognized MasterPeace organization, former Emerging Global Leaders Jamaica (EGLJ) participant and mentor, Christian and Sunday School Teacher. Damor, in an effort to help youth unlock their purpose, founded the Bumpy Purpose Campaign (BPC) in 2017. He firmly believes that "A life without a purpose is a life without a destination".



Morganna Gordon

Morganna Gordon is a graduate of Meadowbrook High School. In her spare time Morganna volunteers with her church to visit sick and shut-in members of her community helping with household chores and providing companionship. She plans to study Biochemistry at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus.



Kayla DaCosta

Kayla DaCosta is a graduate of Manchester High School, who will be beginning a new journey at the University of the West Indies, Mona to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Actuarial Science.

She has acquired 11 CSEC, CAPE Unit 1 subjects and volunteers in various organizations including schools and the clinic, the most recent was tutoring Mathematics to CSEC students. Kayla has held leadership roles such as Vice President, Assistant Secretary and the Assistant Events Coordinator in the Red Cross Club at Manchester High and was also a prefect. She is currently the Vice President of the Anglican Youth Fellowship at her church.

The philosophy, which she aims to live by is 'Patience, trust and hard work bring dreams into the realm of reality'.



Whitney Box

Whitney Box attended the Rusea's High School where she excelled academically and assumed many leadership roles. Whitney was Head Girl for two years and assumed the role of President and mentor for Girls With A Purpose mentorship program, a program that offers behavioral guidance and academic aid to grades 7-9 girls. She was Valedictorian for the class of 2019.

She will attend the University of the West Indies, Western Jamaica Campus, and pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting.

Whitney's mantra is: "Remind yourself why you are doing what you are doing, and if that doesn't keep you motivated, then maybe you shouldn't be doing it."





Kayla Jeffery

Kayla Jeffery is a graduate of Campion College. She will be attending Georgia Institute of Technology. She will be pursuing a degree in Chemical Engineering.



Danielle Pinnock

Danielle Pinnock is a graduate of Mannings High School and plans to pursue a career in pharmacology. Despite being orphaned by the age of 12, she achieved academic excellence and served as Vice President and senior peer counsellor, an active member of the 4-H club and has served as class prefect on numerous occasions. In 2019 she served in the capacity of youth medical officer of the Westmoreland Junior Council.

Danielle is fueled by the words of Maya Angelou “You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, how you can still come out of it.”





Jowayne Hudson

Jowayne Hudson was born in Jamaica on August 29, 2002. He enjoys reading and writing stories and playing video games. He graduated in the top 1% of his class at Titchfield High School in 2019.

Passionate about the sciences, he enrolled in upper sixth form and worked on expanding his knowledge in mathematics and the sciences while holding several leadership positions in community service organizations.

Jowayne will be pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science at Fisk University.

Mikhayla Williams

Mikhayla Williams is a graduate of Mount Alvernia High School where she served as Head Girl and was Valedictorian and recipient of the Principal's Award. Her outstanding high school career included representing her school as an athlete at Girls Championship, and the school's dance studio group at the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission Festival winning numerous gold medals

Her volunteer activities includes working at the Blossom Garden's Children Home in Montego Bay, helping to orchestrate numerous donation drives and virtual awareness campaigns, helping out at Williams Elite Academy, a Preparatory school in St. James, and the Office of the Children's Registry (OCR) where she educated children about child abuse through various creative activities and presentations.

She will attend Augusta University in Georgia and study Cell and Molecular Biology, the first step towards her career goal of becoming a Pediatric Surgeon.



Elroy Campbell

Elroy Campbell's aspirations have always been centered around science and how he can help contribute to better healthcare. He is a proud graduate of the Herbert Morrison Technical High School and a past sixth-form student at the said institution. Ultimately, he aspires to become a hospital pharmacist, a biological research scientist and a medical activist. This upcoming fall, he will be pursuing his dreams at the University of Technology, Jamaica.

Elroy is passionate about his academics and volunteering. At the Herbert Morrison Technical High School, his involvement in clubs and societies included the Vice-President of the Science Club, Senior Prefect, Public Relations Officer of the Red Cross Society, Student Counsellor, Peer Mentor, 4-H Club member, Tourism Action Club member and the Debating Society member. Outside of school, he is a part of the membership management team for the Saint James Youth Leadership Organization and a member of the Caribbean Regional Youth Council.

Elroy describes himself as an outspoken, dedicated, goal-oriented, hardworking, intelligent and intellectual individual. One of his philosophies in life states that "Self-belief and hard work will always earn you success."



Allisa Salmon



Allisa Salmon is a St. Andrew's Technical High School alum, future Attorney at Law and Human and Animal rights activist.

During her high school career Allisa was a student leader and academic mentor through serving as Prefect, Student Counselor and member of the 4-H, Leo, and Debating clubs as well as Junior achievers, I.S.C.F and as one of the cooks and server in the school's breakfast program. In 2019 she represented Jamaica and placed third in the Parliamentary World Debate competition.

Allisa will attend the University of the West Indies, Mona, to study law.

Ashanti Roache

Ashanti Roache is a graduate of Mannings High School where she held several leadership positions including being head girl and vice president of the Prefects Association. Ashanti aspires to be a teacher and will attend the Sacred Heart University.



Demitri Moffat




Demitri Moffatt graduated from Ardenne High School where he served as an environment monitor and student councilor while maintaining his place on the Principal's List. He continued his journey in sixth form at St Jago High School where he served as the technical coordinator of the society of science and technology and served in the Key Club.

With the help of The Atlanta Jamaican Association, Demitri will study Electrical and Computer Engineering at UTECH and eventually become an electronics engineer.

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Radica Binns


Radica Binns is a graduate of Hampton High School. To fulfil her dream of becoming an educator, she will attend Church's Teachers College.

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Ashley Grant

Ashley Grant is a graduate of Queen's High School where she served as prefect and participated in several volunteer projects including beach clean up program and working with youth at the Glen Hope Place of Safety. In the future she wants to be a mentor to young people. Ashley will attend the University of South Florida and dreams of one day owning her own Real Estate and Construction firm.





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