

Growing up, I always aspired to receive a college education and have a successful career. Whether that be in the law field, public service, or health, I wanted a college education and to be successful. As I grew older, I learned that post-secondary education was not free. I heard many stories from people, saying they were still paying off their student loans and left school with a lot of debt. I never wanted that to be my experience. One thing I learned from high school was the importance of scholarships during the college application process. I learned that if I wanted to further my education without the burden of student loans and debt, I would have to apply for scholarships.

So, during my senior year at Benjamin Banneker Academic High School, the number 1 high school in Washington, DC and 96th high school in the nation, while applying for college, I made it one of my priorities to apply for scholarships as well. In doing so, I received over \$1.4 million in scholarships and offers from universities. This includes \$1,000 from the William O. Lockridge Community Foundation.

Receiving this scholarship has added on to the joy of attending college debt free. I will be attending Alabama A&M University, majoring in Psychology, without financial burden. The assistance of the “Spread Your Wings” scholarship brings me pride and joy because I’ll be able to tell my mother that we don’t have to stress about student loans and college debt. I am overjoyed by the fact that I will receive the college experience that I dreamed of as kid, for free. I appreciate the William O. Lockridge Community Foundation for considering me for this opportunity, and I can’t wait to see what their assistance does for me in the future.

Kendall Shields

*Benjamin Banneker Academic High School
Psychology Major/ Criminal Justice Minor*