

The "Spread Your Wings" scholarship means a tremendous amount to me. Ever since quarantine, I have been battling depression and didn't know until I had to experience the real world again. Going back to school, I didn't realize it was hard for me to get out of the bed, hard for me to find motivation for school which caused my GPA to slip. Knowing that my mom helped my two older siblings through school by getting loans, I knew she couldn't afford to get any more loans because she is still trying to pay them off now. This encouraged me to get back on my game and push for better grades to get more scholarship opportunities.

Another event that took a huge toll on me was when my family became dysfunctional due to my father self-medicating due to being depressed. This led to him being kicked out the house on top of my mom paying all the bills by herself for months. This scholarship means so much to me because it will help spread my wings to pursue my career in Business Administration and becoming a professional dancer, it will really help my mom financially and now that my father has been sober for 2 years, both of my parents can witness me keeping the legacy of going and graduating from an HBCU.

*Jade McDonald*