



William O. Lockridge COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

EMPOWERING. EDUCATING. ENRICHING.

The William O. Lockridge Community Foundation, founded in 2011, is a non-profit organization located in Southeast Washington, D.C. The Foundation promotes access to higher education to students in Wards 7 and 8 by offering scholarships, transportation assistance to college and international travel.

Spread Your Wings

Volume 7: Edition 3

September 30, 2025

MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER/CHAIRWOMAN

Dear Friends:

This summer has been full of celebration, reflection, and a renewed commitment to our mission at the William O. Lockridge Community Foundation (WOLCF). We were especially proud to welcome back our 2025 Student Ambassadors after their successful educational and cultural exchange in Angola this July. Their journey continued the legacy of our 2024 cohort, who traveled to Madagascar, and it was truly inspiring to see both groups reunite and share how these transformative experiences are shaping their futures.

The impact of the WOLCF's work continues to resonate strongly in Wards 7 and 8, where we remain dedicated to providing scholarships and international travel opportunities for high school students. These investments are more than just awards; they serve as bridges to confidence, global awareness, and leadership.



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INTERNATIONAL AMBASSADORS' PROGRAM: ANGOLA



The William O. Lockridge Community Foundation (WOLCF) proudly announces the successful completion of an international educational and cultural exchange program in Luanda, Angola, featuring four WOLCF International Ambassadors from Wards and 8.

The four ambassadors are Maegan Godoy (Friendship Tech Prep), Carlone Leach (McKinley Tech, Taylor Muie (McKinley Tech)), and Cire Wilson (Duke Ellington School of the Arts).

During their July 19–28 visit, the International Ambassadors engaged in activities designed to expand global

awareness, build leadership skills, and strengthen cultural ties between the United States and Angola.

"This journey was about more than just travel, it was about building bridges of understanding and empowering our young leaders to see themselves as global citizens," said Wanda Lockridge, Founder/Chairwoman of WOLCF.

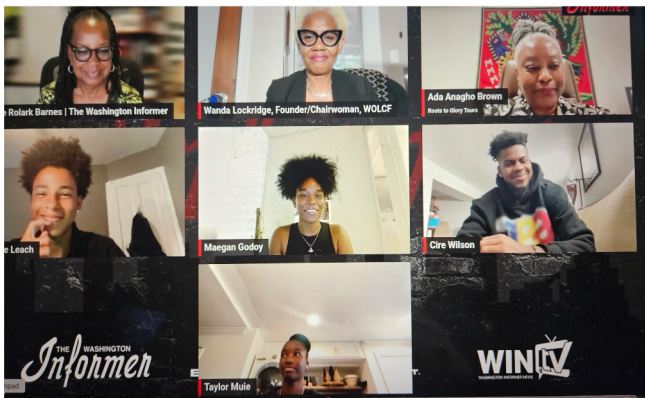
The WOLCF remains committed to providing life-changing opportunities for youth from underrepresented communities.

cont.

Washington Informer Interview on WOLCF Delegation Visit to Angola



Denise Rolark Barnes, publisher of *The Washington Informer*, interviewed the four WOLCF International Ambassadors who traveled to Angola. She also spoke with WOLCF Founder and Chairwoman Wanda D. Lockridge, as well as Ada Anagho Brown, president of Roots to Glory Tours and organizer of the visit.



LUANDA, ANGOLA 2025

Each story of a young scholar returning to their community with broader horizons reminds us that together, we are shaping a generation prepared to succeed in an interconnected world.

On behalf of the Board, our scholars, and their families, I sincerely thank our community of supporters. Your generosity enables these life-changing opportunities, and your faith in our mission motivates our progress. With your continued support, we will broaden scholarships, mentorship, and global engagement, ensuring students in Wards 7 and 8 have every opportunity to succeed.

Wanda D. Lockridge
Founder/Chairwoman

DID YOU KNOW?

According to Private School Review, St. Johns College High School offers the most sports programs for student athletes in the District of Columbia with 24 offerings.

SPICE IS RIGHT

Our ancestors transformed plants and their extracts into botanical medicines to boost vitality and cure diseases long before conventional pharmaceuticals existed. Try taking ginseng. Ginseng is scientifically

WOLCF LEADERSHIP HONORED WITH THE 100 GLOBAL WOMEN ICONS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



The 100 Global Women Icons Economic Development Summit concluded with an Awards Gala at The Watergate Hotel on September 26. One hundred women were recognized as icons of economic development for their contributions to innovation, leadership, and impact across various sectors.

Among the honorees were Wanda D. Lockridge, Founder and Chairwoman of the WOLCF; Barbara Jones, Co-Chair of the WOLCF Events Committee; and Angela Gittens, the first woman to serve as General Manager of Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport.

Reflecting on this honor, Lockridge said, “Standing among so many amazing women tonight fills me with gratitude and purpose. This honor isn’t just for me — it’s a tribute to every woman who keeps going in the face of adversity. Let’s keep lifting each other and leading with heart and conviction.”

“To be recognized alongside so many visionary women,” said Jones, “is both humbling and empowering. This honor reaffirms my commitment to uplifting others, strengthening communities, and building a future where every woman’s leadership is seen and celebrated.”



An evening of celebration

WOLCF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS' CORNER

A Former WOLCF Scholarship Recipient on the Move

Recently, Wanda D. Lockridge was approached by a former WOLCF scholarship recipient, Saudia Campbell. She was awarded a scholarship in 2021.

Running into one of our former WOLCF scholarship recipients at the The 100 Global Women Icons Economic Development Awards dinner, now a Trinity College graduate and working as a legislative aide in the Maryland State Legislature, filled me with pride. She is yet another shining example of how the William O. Lockridge Community Foundation continues to positively impact lives, empowering young people to achieve their dreams and give back to our community.

The WOLCF remains connected with our scholarship recipients, USFSI participants, and Student International Ambassadors, believing that each one is not only a member of our extended WOLCF family but also our representatives in high schools, college campuses, and society.



EVERY VOTE COUNT
WILLIAM O. LOCKRIDGE
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

vote

IS NOMINATED FOR

BEST
DMV-BASED



VOTE DAILY UNTIL OCTOBER 3

and please spread the word.

Every vote counts

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/VOTEWOLCF](https://tinyurl.com/votewolcf)



How to find us: Look under category: DMV Pride, Places
& Faith; subcategory Best DMV Based Nonprofit.

WOLCF INTERNATIONAL AMBASSADORS' CORNER

"ANGOLA AMBASSADORS SPEAK OUT"



The WOLCF International Ambassadors recently returned from an unforgettable journey to Angola, where they explored the country's rich history, culture, and resilience. Each ambassador had the unique opportunity to connect with local communities, learn about Angola's path of progress, and reflect on the global impact of the African diaspora. In the essays that follow, they share their personal experiences, lessons learned, and how this trip has shaped their views on leadership, service, and their role as global citizens.

MAEGAN GODOY

One of the most unforgettable moments of the trip was visiting a breathtaking waterfall hour outside the city. Surrounded by lush scenery and the calming sounds of flowing water, the experience felt surreal. Standing there, I was reminded of the natural beauty and power of the continent—something that pictures and videos can't fully capture. The waterfalls' remote location and immense size created a striking contrast to the energy and movement of Luanda, providing a peaceful moment for reflection and connection to the land.

Another meaningful moment happened during our visit to a local school, where we spent time with the children and pre-teens.

We got to see all the students' performances since the school was also a performing arts school. Many students were nervous about talking to us, but we still learned about their culture and education. Despite language barriers, our translators helped us communicate with them.

CARLONE LEACH

Looking back, the entire trip gave me a new perspective on Africa. Before traveling, I had a specific idea of what Africa might be like, but once I was there, I saw it was much more beautiful than I expected. The safari, the embassy, and everyone who came with me all contributed to the experience in ways I will never forget. I was able to see Africa not only through its landscapes and culture but also through its history that shaped it. Being in a place where so much history has taken place made me reflect deeply on the resilience and strength of the African people.

Now that I am taking AP African American Studies, I keep making many connections back to my trip. What I learned in Angola connects with the struggles and triumphs that I study in class, and it pushes me to ask even more questions about history and culture. Overall, the trip was both educational and personal, giving me a chance to experience Africa in a way that no book or classroom could ever provide. It was a beautiful experience that left a lasting impact on how I view the world and my own studies.

TAYLOR MUIE

After hours of flying, we finally landed at the airport. When we stepped outside, we saw an amazing group of dancers. It was the perfect surprise greeting. On our first day, we took a beautiful boat ride on the Kwanza River and even saw the spot where the river meets the ocean. We saw various animals, including monkeys, alligators, and an eagle.

Then we went to the moon view. These canyons were orange and tan and formed due to erosion from rain and wind. Dinner was something new, but I wasn't there to like everything—just to try. On day two, we visited the safari and the Slavery Museum. The safari was a bust because the only animals out were some monkeys, deer, and antelope. And the ride was extremely bumpy. Even though it wasn't a complete success, it was still worth the experience.

CIRE WILSON

Of course, no cultural immersion would be complete without food, and Angola did not disappoint. From freshly grilled fish to dishes made with cassava and rice, every meal was rich in flavor and history. The spices had a depth that lingered, and even simple meals were prepared with care and pride. Sitting down to eat with others became its own form of storytelling because food carried the traditions and struggles of generations. Meals weren't just about eating; they were about connecting with people and culture in an intimate way.

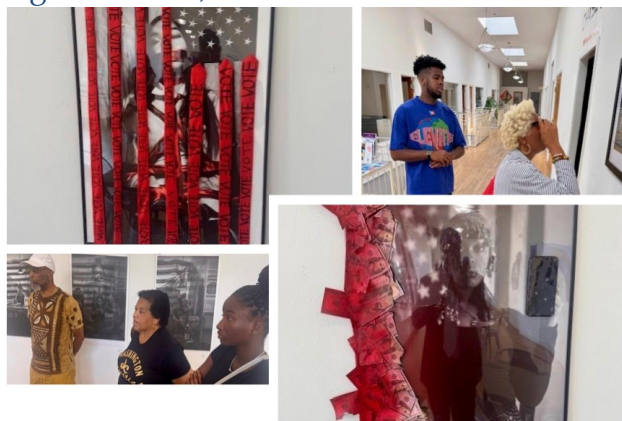
Looking back, my experience in Angola with the William O. Lockridge Community Foundation was life changing. It allowed me to combine my love for photography, my passion for basketball, and my curiosity about culture into one unforgettable journey.

I learned that art and sports can break down barriers, food can tell stories, and even challenges like jet lag can teach resilience. Angola gave me more than memories; it gave me perspective. And that perspective will continue to influence how I see the world and how I choose to navigate it for years to come.



INTERNATIONAL AMBASSADORS'

In early August, the WOLCF visited the Anacostia Arts Center to celebrate a photo exhibit by Cire Wilson, our 2025 International Ambassador. Cire's powerful images sparked meaningful discussions among our students and supporters about storytelling, culture, and the impact of representation. The evening highlighted WOLCF's dedication to developing talent in Ward 7 & 8 and connecting young leaders to D.C.'s thriving arts scene. The WOLCF will also host a photo exhibit of Cire's photos from Angola in early spring 2026. Congratulations, Cire!



The U.S. Foreign Service Initiative (USFSI) will restart on October 4, with six sessions planned for this fall. These sessions will cover topics like media exposure, agriculture and food, trade and international commerce, African fashion, culture and tourism, and international diplomacy. The program introduces high school students from Wards 7 and 8 to career opportunities in both the public and private sectors of international affairs. Each year, the WOLCF have the option of selecting at least four students to travel abroad, giving them direct global experiences that enhance their classroom and community learning.

WOLCF IN LISBON, PORTUGAL

During their return trip from Angola to Washington, the WOLCF student ambassadors and delegation spent a memorable evening and night in Lisbon, Portugal. The group enjoyed a relaxed dinner together, sampling the city's vibrant cuisine before heading out on foot to explore Lisbon's historic streets and lively squares. Walking through charming neighborhoods and soaking in the city's atmosphere gave them a moment of cultural immersion and reflection after their time in Angola. The overnight stop provided not only a chance to rest but also an opportunity for shared experiences and camaraderie, thereby strengthening the bonds among the students and mentors before they headed home.



The WOLCF has partnered with the Mu Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. to relaunch a male mentorship program at Ballou Senior High School. This program pairs students with committed mentors who provide guidance, encouragement, and positive role models to help young men succeed both academically and personally. Together, WOLCF and Alpha Phi Alpha are working to empower the next generation of leaders in Wards 7 and 8.



William O. Lockridge
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

DANCING WITH THE SCHOLARS XV

"DISTRICT OF CHAMPIONS"



THEARC:
1901 Mississippi Ave SE, WDC 20020



Saturday, November 8, 2025



7:00 PM

Co-chairs: **Donna Cooper &
A. Scott Bolden**

**RESERVE
YOUR SEAT**

<https://tingurl.com/DWTSXV>



THERMEGROUP



EMPOWERING. EDUCATING. ENRICHING.

Meet the Board of Directors

Wanda D. Lockridge, *Founder/Chairwoman*

Stefan Lockridge, *Vice Chairman & Scholarship/
Development Committee*

Linval Crosdale, *Treasurer*

Tori Hawkins, *Secretary & Scholarship/
Development Committee*

Yvette Alexander, *Fundraising Committee*

Tiffany L. Brown, *Chair, Scholarship/Program
Development Committee*

Austin R. Cooper, Jr., *Chair, Public Relations
Committee & US Foreign Service Initiative*

Angela Chester-Johnson, *Scholarship/Program
Development Committee & US Foreign Service
Initiative*

Jaren Hill Lockridge, *Events Planning Committee*

Jacque Patterson, *Chair, Fundraising Committee*

Tatiana Robinson, *Chair, Young Adult Committee*

**Click on the link below and learn about the
leadership team of the WOLCF**

Upcoming Events

U.S. Foreign Service Initiative
October 2025

Dancing with the Scholars XV
November 8, 2025

Committees

Events Planning

Sheila Bunn, *Co-Chair*

Barbara Jones, *Co-Chair*

Yolanda Fields

Fundraiser

See Board of Directors

Public Relations

David Beckford

Jordan L. Jones

Scholarship/Program Development

See Board of Directors

Young Adult

See Board of Directors

US Foreign Service Initiative (Ad Hoc)

Ada Anagho Brown

Greg Simpkins

Contact Us

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