



Jerome Burke Foundation

Volunteer Highlights Revall Burke

Revall Burke (cover image, brown hat), brother to Melaine and uncle to Salena, has contributed greatly to the Jerome Burke Foundation and to the community as a whole.

Revall raised funds to allow the foundation to give scholarships, he attended every event JBF hosted, and he was even the co-host for the annual gala. He was also a city parking aide for 15 years, and a 17th ward election judge.

Unfortunately, Revall passed away on April 1, 2020 due to COVID-19, but his memory lives on in friends and family and in the foundation.

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2019 Scholarship Candidates

Caleb Dunson



One of the students to receive a scholarship from the JBF in 2019 was Caleb Dunson. Caleb is an athlete, a writer, and the founder and CEO of Youth Entrepreneurship League. He applied to many incredible schools such as Harvard, Princeton, University of Chicago, Yale, Vanderbilt, and many others. Caleb was accepted into every school he applied to.

“Every school I applied to had a unique aspect about it I loved, and as a person with everchanging interests, I gravitated toward schools that would allow me to explore a wide variety of academic subjects,” Caleb said.

Ultimately, he has decided to attend Yale University because of the “accessibility of the professors and the kindness of the students,” Caleb said. When school starts there are several extracurriculars he plans to participate in including intramural basketball, writing opinion pieces for the Yale Dailey News, student government, and possibly entrepreneurship club.

Due to the pandemic, starting college will be a much different experience than it normally would be. Despite this, Caleb is still very excited to start school.

Why We Love JBF

“I think that the foundation is a great way to honor black students and their hard work and accomplishments. I am excited to see what's to come in the future, and I'm proud to be a recipient.” - *Brandon Porter*

“The Jerome Burke Foundation is amazing. Attending the Awards Gala was a wonderful experience; I had the opportunity to meet the incredibly kind, generous, and passionate people that run the foundation, and was inspired by their drive the honor Mr. Jerome Burke and support young Black men.” - *Caleb Dunson*

“I'm so glad the foundation exists and is helping people like me have access to opportunities like the one that I'm in.” - *Damani Hood*

“Even though college will look much different than it has traditionally, I think that presents an opportunity for me to experience something unique and make the most out of the current situation,” Caleb said.

Brandon Porter



Brandon Porter is another recipient of a JBF scholarship. Not only is Brandon an athlete, but also a musician. This is why he's chosen to attend Syracuse University.

"I have decided to attend Syracuse University because of the music program they have to offer as well as fit for me as a person. I also believe that I will be able to achieve my goals there and will have an excellent foundation for whichever career path I choose to pursue," Brandon said.

As well as studying music, Brandon plans to participate in intramural basketball and joining the black student's affinity group.

Although a bit nervous about the transition to college because of the pandemic, Brandon says he's very excited to start school in the fall.

"I recently learned that we would be on campus in the fall, so I am very eager to start something new... as long as everyone follows the school's guidelines of always wearing a mask and maintaining social distancing, it should be a fulfilling experience." Brandon said.

"They have an amazing television reproduction program and amazing weather," Damani said.

Damani is currently unsure of what extracurriculars he wants to participate in because of COVID-19. However, once the virus is no longer a threat, Damani says he would like to participate in some of the comedy clubs LA has to offer.

"I'd definitely like to also participate in intramural lacrosse," Damani said.

Damani is very excited and can't wait to start this new chapter in his life. Although the threat of COVID-19 can be unnerving, Damani says he's excited for the experience.

"I'm so excited because I'm gonna be having the most unique experience that no other freshman class will ever relate to," Damani said.

Damani Hood



Damani Hood was awarded a scholarship as well. Damani has decided to attend University of Southern California in the fall.

Marquell Washington



Marquell Washington attended Collins Academy. He was a member of the football team and of My Block, My Hood and My City which believes in providing opportunities for others by exploring new communities, cultures, and cuisines.

Marquell plans to major in Sports Journalism at Northern University.

Caleb Young



Caleb Young graduated from Whitney Young Magnet School with a 3.6 GPA. Besides from his academic excellence, he has demonstrated ability to perform at other scholastic activities by being on the Soccer Team and also of 100 Black Men.

Caleb has decided to attend Claremont McKenna College and plans to major in Finance.



Donor Highlights

Kristi Kamykowski

Kristi Kamykowski is a long-time friend of Salena, knowing each other for roughly 10 years. Inspired by how Salena turned such a tragic event into an incredible foundation, Kristi has been happy to support her friend and the young men that the foundation was created for.

“I love supporting an organization that helps make higher education more accessible for young African American men,” Kristi said.

Why are Scholarships Important to the African American Community?

African American students have and continue to be represented significantly less than white students in higher education. Tuition costs have always been a huge wall that prevents African American students from attending college.

College fees consume roughly 63% (48% for families that receive federal financial aid) of an African American family’s income. Because it takes up so much, African American students tend to take out larger loans, making scholarships and financial aid essential for them to participate in higher education.

Before the establishment of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU’s), African American students were often denied access to predominately white colleges and universities. Therefore, HBCU’s became the only provider of higher levels of education for African American students.

HBCU’s, companies, and nonprofit organizations like JBF are necessary to give African American students the opportunity to pursue higher education and go on to become some of the top scholars, innovators, and politicians.

Sources: <https://online.maryville.edu/scholarships-for-african-american-students/> and <https://www.nitrocollege.com/scholarships/african-american>

Scholarship Information

Eligibility Requirements for Applicants

- An African-American male student.
- Must have a minimum 2.5 GPA.
- Must be a senior attending an Illinois school by the application deadline of October 15th
- Must have completed 10 hours of community services or agree to complete 10 hours of community services.
- Must be able to attend the Annual Gala on Second Saturday in December; actual date TBA.

How to Apply for a Scholarship

- Complete the online application.
- Upload three letters of recommendation.
- A sealed, official high school transcript mailed directly from your counselor.
- Upload a signed community service agreement (for students who have not completed 10-hours of community service).
- Upload a signed mentor agreement.

Upcoming Events

Feed the Homeless

Come for a chance to give back to our community!

Date: Thursday, November 26

Time: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM CST

Location: TBD

Annual Black Tie Scholarship & Awards Gala

The foundation will honor the recipients of the Jerome Burke Scholarship and acknowledge a nonprofit organization that contributes similar resources to African American males. It will be a night of eating, dancing, and entertainment!

Date: Sunday, December 13

Time: 6:00 PM – 11:00 PM CST

Location: TBD

Tickets for all events can be purchased at the foundation website:

<https://www.jeromeburkefoundation.org/events-1>

Additional Information

2019 Financial Overview

Revenue

Donations – xxx

Apparel - \$350.00

Expenses

Scholarship - \$5000.00

Gala - \$3943.78

Casino Night - \$6090.62

Advertisement - \$824.37

Cost of Goods - \$570.00

Misc. - \$429.27

Net Income - \$8478.69

New Online Program

Although no events were held during 2020, a new training program has been implemented.

It's a free program for African American men to learn computer programming, business skills, and other things of the sort.

The current available courses include:

- Business Skills
- Compliance
- Customer Service
- Finance
- Management
- IT Skills

To sign up, fill out the pre-registration form on the foundation website. Seats are limited.

[Training Program | Jerome Burke Foundation | jeromebf.org](#)

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