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Charles County Arts Alliance Awards Arts Scholarships

Seven Students Receive \$1,000 Toward College Tuition

For over eighteen years, the Charles County Arts Alliance (CCAA) has offered arts scholarships to a qualified graduating senior from each Charles County public high school who has been accepted to attend a 4-year college or university. The \$1,000 scholarships will help each student in their visual, performing and/or literary arts degree program. The scholarship recipients have each earned a minimum cumulative 3.0 weighted grade point average (WGPA) and submitted an application including a detailed résumé, an essay about how the scholarship will help them achieve their goals, two letters of recommendation, and an official transcript.

Representing a high level of artistic talent and academic achievement in Charles County public high schools, the 2018 CCAA arts scholarship recipients are as follows: Chloe Lateulere and Kavante Reeves-Barham from Henry E. Lackey, Jahlen Grant-King and Sarah Steele from North Point, Nicholas Kootsikis from La Plata, Bryette Washington from St. Charles, and Taylor Degges from Westlake.



Chloe Lateulere is a graduate from Henry E. Lackey High School. Her strong academic credentials can be seen in her impressive 4.1 WGPA and memberships in the National Honor Society, the Tri-M Music Honor Society, and the Thespian Honor Society. Additionally, Chloe immersed herself in dramatic and tech activities with the Lackey Drama Club, the Port Tobacco Players Theatre, the CSM Theatre Company and Hard Bargain Players. She participated in numerous acting competitions winning awards, such as the Most Outstanding Actress in the 2017 Maryland Thespian Festival One Act Competition. Acting has been augmented with participation in the high school choir and Takin' Charge Acapella. She has lent her talents and abilities to an array of community volunteer activities, including Girl Scouts, Special Olympics and the local literacy council. She even found time to compete on the Chargers tennis and Indian Head swimming teams. This fall she will begin her college education at West Virginia University in the BFA Musical Theatre program.



Kavante Reeves-Barham from Lackey High School is a recipient of the PNC Bank Foundation Scholarship awarded through the CCAA. He has earned a WGPA of 3.04 and has served as the Vice-President of the National Arts Honor Society. One of his goals is to become a painter and he has done much in his high school years to provide a solid foundation to achieve that goal. Kavante has entered his works in various exhibits, including the Mattawoman Creek Art Center, the Charles County Government Building and the

Board of Education, the American Youth Month Exhibition, College of Southern Maryland, the Steny Hoyer Art Competition, and the Charles County Art Fair in 2017 where he placed fourth. This winter, he will travel west to begin his degree program in Media Art at the Art Institutes in Las Vegas.



Jahlen Grant-King is a North Point High School graduate. There she earned a 3.95 WGPA having taken numerous Honors and Advanced Placement courses in the Graphic Communication STI program. Furthermore, she served as a Graphic Communication intern. Her several years of being on the Honor Roll, Principal Honors and High Honors have earned her membership in the National Honor Society and National Society of High School Scholars. Her interests have included membership in Skills USA where she earned second place in a regional competition and membership on a Destination Imagination Team where she placed first in another regional competition. She was president and co-creator of the school's FanFiction Club. She place third in a

drawing contest at the Mattawoman Creek Art Center's "Seven Up" exhibit. Additionally, she had time to engage in community volunteer service and to compete on the Eagles Track and Field Team. This fall Jahlen will attend the Savannah College of Art and Design in Atlanta, Georgia.



Sarah Steele is another North Point graduate being awarded a CCAA scholarship. She has achieved a 3.90 WGPA having taken numerous challenging Honors and Advanced Placement courses. Additionally, she has participated in artistic competitions earning recognitions, including the state's Destination Imagination Tournament, the Malloys Bay Art Project's artistic view of the "Ghost Fleet," the Mattawoman Creek Art Center's "Seven Up" exhibit, and Congressional Art Competition for "An Artistic Discovery." Besides her artistic and academic endeavors, Sarah earned a letter for participating on the Eagles Varsity Girls Cross

Country team. Additionally, Sarah devoted considerable time and energy to volunteering to serve in several non-profit organizations. Coming this fall at Salisbury University, she plans to pursue a double major in Painting and Psychology with a goal of becoming an Art Therapist.



Nicholas Kootsikis from La Plata High School is a recipient of the PNC Bank Foundation Scholarship awarded through the CCAA. He took several advanced courses to earn a 3.95 WGPA and earned membership in the National Honor Society. In addition to advanced courses at La Plata, he attended the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center where he completed an intense two-year Interactive Media Program which provided training in multimedia skills and techniques. He was involved in the Writers Club, Improv Club and Mock Trial. Additionally, Nicholas was deeply involved in the creation and production of a short silent film called Not on My

Watch. He also does lighting design for productions at the New Life Church. This fall he will begin his first semester at the Savannah College of Art and Design to earn a BFA in Film and Television.



Bryette Washington is an artist who graduated from St. Charles High School. She earned a 3.75 WGPA and was a member of the National Society of High School Scholars and was on the Principal's Honors List. She was Co-Captain of the Spartans Dance Team for three years. It was to dance that she devoted considerable energies which enabled her to expand her dance skills, become a supernumerary in the Nutcracker with the Kansas City Ballet at the Kennedy Center, and instruct pre-school dance students. She joined both the ASCEND program of the Upsilon Tau Omega

Sorority and the Youth at Work Program to hone her leadership and cultural skills and lend her time and energy to community service, such as Martha's Table in Washington, DC. Bryette will begin her first semester at Salisbury University this fall to pursue a degree enabling her to become a physical therapist concentrating on dancers.



Taylor Degges is a Westlake High School graduate. She challenged herself with a range of advanced courses to earn a 3.76 WGPA. As a dedicated music student, the focus of many of her activities at Westlake, beyond academics, were devoted to instrumental music. This was demonstrated as follows: performing in the Charles County All-County Honors Band, playing in the Westlake Concert, Jazz, Marching and Symphonic bands and Symphonic Orchestra; honing her skills on the flute, piccolo, alto saxophone and piano; and earning superior ratings in four years of district solo and ensemble competitions. Along with developing her instrumental music skills,

she developed management skills as she was assigned leadership roles as the Woodwind Commander in the Marching Band and as a Flute Section Leader. Starting this fall, Taylor will attend the Indiana University of Pennsylvania to major in Music Education.

Founded in 1987, the mission of the Charles County Arts Alliance is to stimulate, promote, encourage and provide recognition of the arts and the creative spirit in Charles County. For more information on the CCAA Arts Grant Program, call 301-392-5900, or email info@charlescountyarts.org.