

NACCA

est.2018

THIRD ANNUAL

SCHOLARSHIP

AWARD

CEREMONY

CLASS OF 2021

HOSTED BY:



S|A|C EST. 1899
St. Andrew's College



AWARD PRESENTATION

Presenters:

Karen Mell

Matthew Brown



Geena Melbourne

Kinesiology - Wilfrid Laurier University

Geena is an inspirational young student who has consistently demonstrated academic excellence throughout her high-school career, being selected for the honour roll from 2015 onward.

In addition to Geena's academic success, she has found the time to engage with the performing arts being a student in Unionville High school's distinguished Dance Program as well as a competitive dancer with a private studio. Geena is currently an Executive Member of the Unionville High School Dance Council, where she organizes events for the program and helps to recruit potential incoming students, providing her insights and experiences to support the next generation. Aside from her passion for dance, Geena regularly takes time to tutor younger students in the areas of math and sciences to support their academic success.

Through her love for the arts, academics, and tutoring - Geena has matured and flourished as a young leader within the community and has developed a passion for the sciences, leading to her application and admission to the Kinesiology program at Wilfrid Laurier University to further her dream to become an Athletic Therapist.

Geena has demonstrated leadership, dedication and a commitment to her community and we wish her the best in her studies at Wilfrid Laurier University in the faculty of Kinesiology.





Natalie Tutu

Joint Honours Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Linguistics at the University of Ottawa.

Natalie is a fluently bilingual trailblazer who believes that Generation Z is the 'ever-changing' generation and in her own words has taken it upon herself to make a difference for generations to come. Noticing a lack of inclusion and representation in her community and high school, she founded the Caribbean African Respect and Equity Association. Her vision for C.A.R.E is to enrich the minds of those who do not understand discrimination and to create a safe space for students like her, who did not feel they belonged. Her club has allowed for students of diverse backgrounds and cultures to come together in the spirit of acceptance and unity. Natalie reflects that starting C.A.R.E is one of her greatest achievements.

An honour roll student throughout her high school career, Natalie secured admission to the highly competitive Southlake Regional Health Center Cooperative Education program. There she worked closely with the Cardiovascular Surgery unit's best nurses and doctors. For Natalie this was a life-changing experience which has inspired her to enter the medical field as a cardiothoracic surgeon. Natalie is truly an inspiration to us all, she has managed rigorous academic demands, community involvement and mentoring her peers, all while balancing three part-time jobs and athletics!

Natalie, we salute you for your passion, hard work and dedication to creating a world which represents us all. The NACCA community could not be more proud of your achievements - Congratulations...Félicitations!



Alexis Agyei-Gyamera

Bachelor of Public Affairs & Policy at Carleton University

Alexis is an exceptional young community leader who has overcome a number of challenges throughout her time in high school. Reflecting on her own experiences, Alexis founded a student-led club called 'A3C' at Brother Andre Catholic High School. This club aims to create safe and inclusive spaces for Black students and allies to gather and discuss poignant issues in their community and develop responsive solutions. Through A3C, Alexis leads challenging discussions on race, facilitates mentorship initiatives and shares her insights with school administration to better engage with racialized students in the school.

In addition, Alexis is a Student Representative for the York Region Secondary Catholic President's Council and in 2021 she developed a program called 'Reading Rainbow' aimed at introducing books authored by racialized writers to elementary children within the York Catholic District School Board. This initiative has helped to display the value of diversity and inclusion through storytelling to elementary aged students, leaving a legacy for others to lead and enjoy.

Alexis is a standout in community leadership, academics, and governance and will be pursuing a Bachelor of Public Affairs & Policy at Carleton University in the fall.

Congratulations on all of your achievements Alexis, NACCA is very proud of you and your work and we wish you the best in your academic and professional career!



Kaylah Christie

Bachelor of Arts in History at York University

Kaylah is a high academic achiever with an undeniable passion for history, particularly related to the Black diaspora. As a first-generation Jamaican-Canadian, Kaylah has not only achieved academic success at Newmarket High School, averaging in the 90% 's and sitting on the Principal's Honour Roll, but has also regularly devoted her time to the community through various volunteer opportunities.

Volunteering at the Elman W. Campbell Museum, the Sharon Temple of National Historic Site and Museum, organizing fundraising walk-a-thons for the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada, participating in NACCA's annual community cleanups and being involved in many of Newmarket High School's clubs, Kaylah has demonstrated a remarkable ability to balance academics with community involvement which is no easy feat!

Kaylah speaks highly of the drive for success she learned from her parents, who continually encourage her to strive for excellence in everything she pursues.

Kaylah is a passionate, motivated young leader and we wish her the best of success as she attends York University to continue her passion through a Bachelor of Arts in History. NACCA is so proud of you Kaylah, continue to do great things!



Ifeoluwa Frank Oshodi

Bachelor of Commerce Program at Queen's University's Smith School of Business

Ifeoluwa Frank is a three-time winner of the Head of School Award for Academic Excellence which is awarded to students with academic averages in excess of 90% at the end of each school year. He is also a two-time recipient of the Most Inspirational Sportsman Award and a two-time winner of Athlete of the Year in his high school. A highly accomplished student and athlete, Frank is most proud of his deep and personal involvement in school and community service. His true passion is leveraging his leadership skills and creative thinking to uplift and motivate the young people in his community. Through his work with the YMCA, Frank has been instrumental in supporting unemployed Canadians find potential employers. He describes the work as heartwarming when he sees members of his community find employment, enabling them to provide for their families. His ongoing commitment to inspiring youth can be seen through his work as a Youth Leader in his church and as a volunteer camp counselor.

Frank, as you describe it, you have had an amazing journey. We look forward to seeing your talents unfold in your post-secondary studies as you continue to fill your community with hope.

Along with the NACCA Scholarship Award, Frank is the recipient of the distinguished Wasim Jarrah Business Excellence Award. Well done Frank, we are so proud of you!



Lireesa Gokhool-Jefferson

General Arts and Science at Queen's University

As a young woman of African Caribbean ancestry, Lireesa understands firsthand what it means to be marginalized and discriminated against because of your skin colour. Yet undaunted, she strives to break down these barriers at every opportunity. As a High-Performance student athlete, she is often looked upon for leadership by her peers and is a role model because of her discipline and stellar work ethic. As a member of the Black Student Alliance, Lireesa became the first student in Bill Crothers Secondary School's history to bring awareness and education on the history of Black Canadians. With an impressive record of community service, Lireesa has helped to organize free events bringing thousands of people with diverse backgrounds together. Using her athletic talents during the pandemic, she led outdoor fitness sessions for children in her community to promote mental wellness. Throughout her senior high school years, she maintained an average of over ninety percent, earning her place on the Honor Roll. Suffering a major injury as a high-performance student athlete has taught her perseverance, patience and resilience.

Lireesa has demonstrated outstanding volunteerism, leadership, exceptional academic achievement and a passion for excellence in all she does. We are so proud of you, Lireesa! Congratulations on winning the NACCA Scholarship Award and best of luck in your post-secondary endeavours.



Crystal Ali

Commerce

at University of Toronto Rotman School of Business

Crystal describes herself as “an overcomer who uses determination and hard work to achieve her goals.”

A self-described Black Nigerian immigrant, Crystal could have allowed low expectations in her education experience to deplete her confidence. Instead she decided to use them to connect with others who experienced the same things. She founded and led the Equity Team at her high school and used it as a medium to spread awareness about Anti-Black racism in Canada. She also delivered a Ted Talk at Queens University during their annual conference this year titled “For A Black Girl”, to encourage girls like her who may have thought of themselves as ‘less-than’ because of the colour of their skin. Crystal will be attending the University of Toronto’s Rotman School of business, with a concentration in commerce. She plans to use her education in finance and economics to improve the financial structure of the post-secondary education system so that higher education can be more affordable for students who face financial hurdles.

Along with the NACCA Scholarship Award, Crystal is the recipient of the distinguished Wasim Jarrah Business Excellence Award. Well done Crystal, we are proud of your determination and relentless pursuit of excellence!



Lauren Hew

Human Kinetics at University of Windsor

Lauren always strives to be the best version of herself. Her love for sports is the source of her happiness and despite a series of significant injuries, altering her dream of being a star athlete, she has found a way to help others toward their athletic goals through setting her sights on a career in kinesiology and physiotherapy. As a volunteer Lauren made a positive impact in the community through her involvement in the Reading Success Program. She led by example and worked hard in order to improve the reading skills of each child she read to. Lauren shared and encouraged her fellow volunteers to do the same in order to enhance the success of the program.

Lauren was also actively involved in her high school, taking part in the Peer Mentorship Club, supporting new students with their transition to high school. She sets the example of what it means to be a well-rounded, actively involved and empathetic student. Excellent time management skills have also enabled Lauren to balance her community involvement, athletic activities and her studies. In her senior year of high school Lauren's academic achievement has afforded her the distinction of being inducted to the honour roll. Lauren will use her strengths in communication, leadership and passion for sports to pursue her Bachelor of Human Kinetics degree at the University of Windsor.

Congratulations on all of your achievements Lauren, NACCA is very proud of you. Wishing you the best in your academic and professional career!



Prevail Awoleye

Computer Engineering at Ryerson University

"The ability to confront complex problems, and to design solutions to those problems; the ability to create is the most empowering thing that can happen to an individual."

-Patrick Awuah, Founder, and President of Ashesi University College, Ghana

Prevail believes that Africa is the future and is primed for a revolution to turn its story from tragedy to success. His dream is to leverage his education to help bring Africa to the forefront of technology. Prevail has had a successful high school career both in Canada and Nigeria. He has taken part in numerous sports teams and was a member of school council while at the same time achieving top marks, securing his place on the honour roll. His volunteer work is impressive, having raised funds to support flood victims in Nigeria as well as individuals and families internally displaced due to conflict. Prevail has been described by his mentors as a compassionate young man who spends his time at the local library teaching children how to use graphic design techniques and serves his church community with devotion.

Prevail is the winner of the 4-year Rightsline Computer Science Scholarship. He will be studying Computer Engineering at Ryerson University this fall.

Congratulations Prevail, we are exceedingly proud of you!



Jordan Buchanan

Engineering at McGill University

"It is not your duty to be average. It is your duty to set a higher example for others to follow." -Lincoln Alexander

Jordan consistently demonstrates a level of maturity and commitment to excellence beyond his years. He has set a very high standard for himself and for young people to follow. A high academic achiever, he has maintained a 90+ average throughout his high school career. In his senior year, he was his school nominee for the Schulich Leader Scholarship. He believes that community involvement and leadership opportunities have been crucial contributors to his development. Jordan dedicated time in his community to working with special needs children and young adults. Going above and beyond, he created individualized skills development programs to meet their needs. A high level athlete and captain of his hockey team, Jordan guided his teammates to strive for excellence by adopting his strong work ethic ensuring their growth as athletes and individuals. Jordan's ability to excel at his many commitments has earned him the respect of his peers, teachers and the community.

Jordan will be studying mechanical engineering at McGill university.

Congratulations Jordan, your community is so proud of you!



Gabrielle Francesca Dumé

Faculty of Arts and Science at the University of Toronto

“Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed.” —Booker T. Washington

Of Haitian and Jamaican ancestry, Gabrielle is an aspiring pediatric surgeon who wants to make a difference by sharing her talents in service to her community. She has the heart of a leader who is motivated to support initiatives that uplift others. In her high school, Gabrielle founded and led the Our Roots Culture Club because she wanted to create a more welcoming and inclusive environment for racialized students. Gabrielle also took on the York Catholic District School Board’s Black Student mentor role with the goal of uplifting Black youth. Her outstanding contributions to her peers has been formally recognized by her school board. Gabrielle’s notable accomplishments also include becoming Vice President of her school’s athletic council. She has also dedicated herself to academic excellence by remaining on the honor roll throughout her years in high school.

Gabrielle has used hardship as a motivator overcoming many obstacles to achieve her goals and we celebrate her remarkable accomplishments.

Gabrielle is the recipient of the distinguished Iris Malcolm Memorial Award. You are amazing Gabrielle, we are very proud of you!

With gratitude, we want to thank:

Donors and Sponsors

Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament

Rightsline

Wasim Jarrah

Steve Baxter & Nicole Baxter-Lynn

Anonymous

Unwind Yarn House

The Modern Monstera

SoCo Collective

Andrea Grant-Jones & Gary Jones

Community members who purchased NACCA masks

NACCA

est.2018