



## **Press Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **MCCCE Announces 2026/27 Educational Scholarship Winners**

The McCracken County Community Career Endowment, Inc. (MCCCE) is pleased to distribute the 2026/27 Educational Scholarships at a reception honoring over 50 students at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, June 7, 2026 in Walker Hall located at 229 Madison Street in Paducah, Kentucky.

The event's keynote speaker will be Ms. Andriah Hawthorne who is a native of Paducah, Kentucky. She is a proud graduate of Paducah Tilghman High School, where she earned her diploma in 2021. She went on to attend Murray State University, where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Communication Disorders. She is currently a graduate student in the Master of Arts in Speech-Language Pathology program at the University of Memphis, where she is also pursuing a Public Health certificate and serves as a Graduate Assistant supporting clinical education. In this role, she works alongside clinical leadership to coordinate clinic scheduling, manage client waitlists, develop assessment materials, and assist with AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) resources, including 3D printing supports for individuals who use AAC.

Andriah is a proud four-time recipient of the MCCCE Educational Scholarship, receiving the highest award level each year. To her, this recognition reflects a community that believed in her and trusted her to make the most of the opportunity. Being able to return as a keynote speaker is a full-circle moment, one that still feels surreal considering she was once sitting in the audience reading someone else's bio.

Andriah's passion for speech-language pathology is deeply personal. Once described as "talkative" or "too much," she now sees communication as both her strength and her purpose. Her work is grounded in the belief that differences in communication are not deficits, but opportunities to better understand one another. She is especially passionate about supporting neurodivergent populations and increasing awareness of conditions such as Autism, ADHD, developmental language disorder, and learning differences, as well as individuals with acquired communication disorders such as aphasia, with the goal of improving access to equitable communication support.

Her leadership and involvement reflect this commitment. As a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, she values sisterhood, service, education, and the empowerment of women. Through the Memphis National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA), she stays actively involved both on her

campus and in the field, engaged in conversations shaping the future of speech-language pathology. She was also selected as a member of ASHA's Class of 2024 MSLP (at the time known as the Minority Student Leadership Program), where she had the opportunity to learn from and connect with national leaders in the field, including representatives from the CDC and ASHA's (American Speech and Hearing Association) executive leadership, an experience that strengthened her confidence and perspective within the profession.

Looking ahead, Andriah plans to integrate speech-language pathology with public health to address systemic barriers and expand access to care for underserved and neurodivergent populations. She is committed to continuing the work that others helped make possible for her.

In her free time, Andriah enjoys spending time with her family & friends, caring for her "dog/daughter" Bella, keeping up with social media and pop culture, going on walks, and trying new recipes. She is honored to return as a keynote speaker and remains deeply grateful for the support that has shaped her journey. As reflected in Luke 12:48, "To whom much is given, much is required," a principle that continues to guide her path forward.

Due to additional funds received from the Fred and Peggy Paxton Non-Endowed Fund, enhanced scholarship funds will also be presented to six (6) students in Class XV of the PaxtonScholars Program. Donteona Shumpert, Cheyenne Caldwell, Rahkaela Davis, Tazhenay Walker, Quinton Turner and Mariah Shumpert will receive scholarship funds earned during their Junior and Senior years of high school. They were awarded a college-ready laptop computer with a carrying case and a graphing calculator in December 2025 and will receive additional funds next year which they will earn during their first two semesters of college (all these funds are based on student Grade Point Averages). Students in Class XIV of the PaxtonScholars Program are: Cassidy Minter, Hannah Long, Audreya White, Terrance Robinson, CoryOn Brooks and Mason Edwards. These students will receive funds earned during their 2026 Spring college semester and the six students recently selected to comprise the PaxtonScholars Program Class XVI will be recognized.

The 41 students chosen based on their GPA, financial need, achievements, and future goals to receive the 2026/27 MCCCE Educational Scholarship funds totaling over \$81,000.00 are:

- Roselyn Minter**—University of Kentucky Engineering School@Paducah, Mechanical Engineering Major
- Ma'Hali Brown**—University of Kentucky, Accounting & Management Major
- Chase Maxie**—University of Kentucky Engineering School@Paducah, Mechanical Engineering Major
- Lebran McMullen**—West Kentucky Community and Technical College, Biology Major
- Raymond Green**—West Kentucky Community and Technical College, Logistics & Operations Management Major
- Khiland Moss**—University of Kentucky, Business/Accounting Major
- Landon Fitzgerald**---West Kentucky Community and Technical College, Physical Therapy Major
- Joemari Starks**---Campbellsville University, Sports Management & Marketing Major
- Jaelynn Carver**---Western Kentucky University, Psychology Major
- Kailen McGregor**---Centre College, Theatre & English Major
- Brooklynne Riley**---Shawnee Community College, Sonography/Nursing Major
- Jayla Reed**---Brescia University, Biology/Chemistry Major
- Paige Hixon**---Kentucky State University, Nursing Major
- Alexandria Copper**---University of Louisville, Neuroscience Major on pre-med track
- A'Nniya Harris**---University of Miami, Biology Major
- Sydnee Harris**---Kentucky State University, Nursing Major
- Alexa White**---Kentucky State University, Business Management Major
- Kilee Minter**---Murray State University, Construction Management & Architectural Design Major
- Alecandrea Coffie**---Kentucky State University, Nursing Major

**Justice Campbell**---University of Kentucky Engineering School@Paducah, Mechanical Engineering Major  
**Davion Dunbar**---West Kentucky Community & Technical College, Business Major  
**Jayda Reed**---University of Louisville, Dental Hygiene Major  
**Victoria Wheeler**---University of Louisville, Exercise Physiology Major  
**Makeyah Carruthers**---Western Kentucky University, Criminology Major  
**Victorion Tyler-Williams**---Western Kentucky University, Business Management (Social media concentration)  
**Cassidy Minter**---Murray State University, Middle School Education  
**Hannah Long**---University of Louisville, Psychology Major  
**Terrance Robinson**---University of Louisville, Nursing Major  
**Audreya White**---Gulf Coast State College, Sports Medicine  
**CoryOn Brooks**---University of Kentucky, Vocal Performance Major  
**Mason Edwards**---University of Kentucky, Mechanical Engineering Major  
**Delano Thompson**---West Kentucky Community & Technical College, Industrial Electrician Major  
**Nastisa Johnson**---University of Louisville, Nursing Major  
**Marle Campbell**---University of Kentucky, Psychology Major  
**Ma'Khia Jones**---West Kentucky Community & Technical College, Nursing Major  
**Alyssa Carpton**---West Kentucky Community & Technical College, Nursing Major  
**Blair Sains**---University of Kentucky, Business Major  
**Mason Copeland**---Midway University, Sports Management Major  
**Heaven Woods**---Murray State University, Criminal Justice Major  
**Naarah White**---Alabama A&M University, Elementary Education Major  
**DeMarkus J. Wilson**---Thomas More University, Physical Therapy Major

***B.A. HAMILTON MEMORIAL-INNOVATION HUB SCHOLARSHIPS***

**Ma'Khia Jones**—Nursing  
**Tyrone Johnson**-Welding  
**Craig Newbern III**-Welding  
**Ladarious Flemons**-Welding

***CHARLES HICKS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS***

**Alexa Stubblefield**---West Kentucky Community & Technical College, Physical Therapy Major  
**Blair Sains**---University of Kentucky, Business Major

For the Twentieth (20th) consecutive year, the McDonald's Love Family donated funds again this year to help purchase two new college ready HP laptop computers, with carrying cases.

Nine (9) area mentoring/tutoring organizations each received \$1,200.00 grants from the MCCCE Fredrickia Hargrove Mentoring/Tutoring Enrichment Program. To be recognized are: Ninth Street Tabernacle Youth Ministries, Inc., L.I.F.E. Community, Inc., The Luther Carson Four Rivers Center, KeysII@Broadway United Methodist Church, Tornado Alley Youth Services Center, Black Coal & Roses Society Young Ladies Organization, PTHS African American Leadership Club, PTHS Student Equity Advisory Council and the Oscar Cross Boys and Girls Club.

**The event is open to the public, but seating is limited. For tickets, call 270-519-9101 to purchase your tickets for a suggested \$20.00 donation.**

View our website at [mccce.org](http://mccce.org) to learn how to donate funds to assist the MCCCE in our efforts.