

Acorn Scholarship Fund Newsletter



August, 2023

Message From the ASF Board President



There was celebration and joy in the Cypress ballroom on July 23rd. That is when our first group of scholarship recipients were honored! Awardees include Associates who work in Food and Beverage and Rosewood. Eleven recipients are pursuing a vocational course of study at a community college.; seven are working on a Bachelor's or Master's degree.

The courses of study of these 18 awardees is varied, with the majority focused on fields related to healthcare and human services.

The celebration on July 23rd was also an opportunity to thank all of the many Cypress members who donated to the Acorn Fund, making these scholarships possible. And I want to thank the Acorn Board and committee members, who have done an amazing job over the past two years to turn an idea of a scholarship fund into a reality.

On the following pages are photos and brief information about each of our recipients. We all wish them success in their educational pursuits!

Larry Patter



Photos by Don Namm

2023 Scholarship Recipients



La'Nija Askew is a server and hostess at Cypress. She seeks a Bachelor's Degree in Exercise Science and is a senior at Shaw University.



Marla Brennan works at Rosewood as the Supplies Coordinator and as Covid Coordinator for the Cypress. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and is now working on a Master's Degree in Public Health at UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health.



Jancy Chevres-Sanchez is a server and is attending Wake Tech Community College. His goal is to obtain an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree in Radiography.



Karla Gonzalez-Hernandez has worked at Cypress since 2020 and is currently a server. She seeks an Associate in Applied Science degree in Human Services Technology and is attending Wake Tech Community College.



Tyasia Gray completed one year in the Culinary Arts Program at Wake Tech and is putting that education to good use here at Cypress in her role as cook. She is currently focused on obtaining a diploma in Dental Assisting at Wake Tech



Kyree Matthews is a server at Cypress. He is working on an Associate in Arts (AA) degree at Wake Tech. His current goal is to complete the needed requirements so that he can transfer to UNC Charlotte and continue his studies in Business and Marketing.



Christopher Medina Vasquez has been employed at Cypress since 2016. He currently works as a server. Chris has already obtained two AA degrees—one in Business and one in Fine Arts from Wake Tech. He is now seeking a Bachelor's Degree from NC State University with a major in Art and Design.



Shayla Moore works at Rosewood and fills two roles: as a server and as a Certified Nurse Assistant. She now seeks an AAS degree from Wake Tech in Medical Sonography.



Montavia Oates is a Certified Nurse Assistant at Rosewood. Her goal is to obtain a Bachelor's degree in Healthcare Management from American Intercontinental University.



Lucia Ohle works as a server at both the Cypress Clubhouse and Rosewood. She will be attending Appalachian State University with a goal of obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies.



Matthew Plazas is a server who has already obtained an AA degree from Wake Tech Community College. He seeks to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Business from NC State University. He is currently attending Wake Tech to complete the prerequisites required so he can transfer to NCSU.



Jamielee Rodriguez has worked at Cypress since 2017 as a server for special events and in the prep and delivery areas. She already has earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Criminal Justice from William Peace University. She is now working on a Master's Degree in the area of Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Colorado Christian University.



Michael Torres is a Server and currently working on an Associate in Applied Science degree at Wake Tech. His major is Business Administration with a focus on Project Management.



Michael Touray is a server and food runner at Cypress. He has completed a Certified Nurse Assistant certification and is now enrolled at Wake Tech to obtain an AAS degree in Radiography.



Enyioha Ukachi works as an LPN at Rosewood. He has previously obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology in Nigeria. He is currently completing prerequisites at Wake Tech with an ultimate goal of obtaining a nursing degree.



Cameron Walker is a Shift Manager in the Clubhouse Dining Room. He has obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication from ECU. He is now attending Pitt Community College in the school of Business Management.



Zachary Westbrook is a server at Cypress. He has completed two years of education at Virginia Tech. He is now enrolled at East Coast Polytechnic Institute (ECPI) with a goal of obtaining a Bachelor's degree and certification in Cyber Security.



Tiffany Wilson is a Certified Nurse Assistant and worked in Home Health. She is currently attending Nash Community College with a goal of obtaining an Associate Degree in Nursing.