

## Darius Baskerville

I am Darius Baskerville, and I was a recipient of this scholarship in 2015, as I was going into my freshman year at Longwood University. This scholarship was very helpful, and I am very appreciative for it as it helped with getting textbooks and other supplies for school.

Going into Longwood, I was majoring in Kinesiology. After a short period in that major, I switched my major to Social Work and haven't looked back since. After graduating in the spring of 2020, I landed a job at Prince Edward County Department of Social Services as the Foster Care and Adoption Worker. As a connection to my major, I am very active in the community. I referee YMCA basketball, I am a member of the YMCA Board of Directors, I coach Dixie Youth Softball in Clarksville, and I help coach a girls travel softball team based out of Chase City.

I would like to thank the West End School National Alumni Association for choosing me as a recipient of this scholarship and for having me at the dinner to speak. Thank you!

## Jaime Carter Walls

Hello, I am Jaime Walls the daughter of Garland and Estell Carter class of 1968 and 1967 respectively.

When my aunt Wanda asked me to speak about what I have done since I received these scholarships, I laughed because it has been a while!

I currently serve as the Associate Director of Athletics at Catholic University In Washington, DC. Here I am the recruiting coordinator for the department, NCAA Compliance Officer and Health Care Administrator.

I received the West End High School Alumni Association's Lewis R. Marshall Athletic Scholarship for graduate school as I attended Western Michigan University for a master's degree in Athletic Training. This was at a time when I did not see very many African American women in the field. I am pleased to hear that the other recipients speaking today have a larger community of black professionals in the field to look up to. During Graduate school I worked as a Graduate Assistant Athletic Trainer at Kalamazoo College which was where I was introduced to the Division III model of college athletics. I knew this was the level that I would enjoy.

After Graduate school, my first job was at Albion College as an Assistant Athletic trainer where I also taught in the Athletic Training Education Program. I moved to the DC area in 2005 and worked for a short time at Coppin State University and then eventually found my way Catholic University as an athletic trainer. I worked as an AT (Assistant, Associate, Head) until 2019 and then took over the position that I am currently in as an Assistant AD. I was promoted to Associate in the Fall of 2022.

I have learned that student-athletes need support just like non athletes but in ways that not only affect their academic performance, but also their athletic performance. They are constantly on and may not feel like they can take the time to take care of their mental, social and spiritual health. As an athletic trainer working in Athletics Administration, I am working on ways to improve the student-athlete experience as it relates to healthcare. I am also happy to see that the West End High School Alumni Association continues to support those that want to keep student-athletes safe and specifically supporting Black up and coming healthcare workers in sport.

Thank you!

## Tyra Dennis

My name is Tyra Dennis. I still have the same goal of being an early education special education teacher upon graduation and later becoming a Clinical Child Psychologist.

I have secured an internship for the summer working in Granville County, NC with children and families of rural and underserved communities.

This year I was a part of the Family and Consumer Science Club, C.H.I.L.D Up, 100 Colligate Women, Council for Exceptional Children, Virginia Aggies, and Service Spree and Transformative Rural-Urban Exchange, and a new inductee of Alpha Lambda Delta. For the 2023-24 academic year, I have secured Vice President of Virginia Aggies, Social Media Coordinator for CHILD Up, and Secretary for the Council for Exceptional Children.

In May I had the opportunity visit the British Isles for eleven days with the University Honors College and the Chancellor of North Carolina A&T. Also, I was selected to be a part of the inaugural class of the leadership incubator hosted by Thurgood Marshall College Fund in Charlotte, NC for five days. During this program I was also selected to be a student speaker representing North Carolina A&T. I am so proud to be accomplishing many of my goals and most importantly self-improvement.

I do not give myself all the credit for my success. I especially want to thank the alumni of West End High School for providing myself and other the opportunity to apply for a reoccurring scholarship. The West End High School Alumni Scholarship has motivated me to ensure that I excel academic and be active on campus so that I will be eligible apply in the years to come.

Again, Thank you so much.