



2021 “Students of Distinction” Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to our thirteen 2021 Scholarship Recipients from Bloomington-Normal, Champaign-Urbana, Decatur, and Peoria Illinois! Our scholar recipients are:

**Tolulope Adeolu Adanri
Sadiq Muhammad
Nathaniel Claybourne Tucker Allen
Naijah Lynn Tinsley
Destini Diane Lannett Peoples
Jaylin Malik Sprattling**

**Taniya Ree Boone
Aniya Lashay Thompson
Shaili Elaine McNeely
Ryan Caleb Bartley
Terrence Antwain Tally II
La’Rayia M. Jackson**

Jaylen D. Pounds

Each of our student scholars has demonstrated upstanding character, commitment to community, and academic excellence. In pursuing CIC’s rigorous application process, these student scholars have collectively and individually inspired the CIC Scholarship Committee. Each student scholar’s personal statement and reflections concerning their experiences and real-time resilience in a world-wide pandemic, assured Committee members that America’s future is secure and brilliant with this next generation of servant leaders.

The Central Illinois Chapter of The Links Incorporated is gratified to know we could be a small part of our student scholars’ journeys in fulfilling their respective academic dreams, career pursuits, and service to community.

Scholars, we salute you and wish you every success in your future endeavors!

2020-2021 Scholarship Committee

***Cheryl Jackson, Esq. – Chair
Wilma Bates
Cheryl Fluker
Nikki Gibson***

***Paulette Jackson
Denise Poindexter
Angie Shaw
Juanita Smith***

Mimi Volmar



2021 Central Illinois Links “Students of Distinction” Scholarship Recipients & Biographies:

Tolulope Adeolu Adanri - Normal, IL - (University High School)



Tolulope is a senior at University High School. She is the daughter of Adebayo and Olubunmi Adanri. She is an honor student and has received academic awards for her achievements. She is actively involved in school and community activities. She is driven and has a passion to take on challenges. She is planning to attend Yale University majoring in Chemistry.

Taniya Ree Boone – Bloomington, IL - (Bloomington High School)

Taniya is a senior at Bloomington High School. She is the daughter of Tiffany Hurks. She is an honor roll student and she is very active in school extracurricular activities as well as community activities. She is aware of what needs to be done to help others and will stop at nothing in order to do so. She will attend University of Illinois this Fall, majoring in Psychology.



Sadiq Muhammad-Normal (Normal Community High School)



Sadiq is a senior at Normal Community High School. He is the son of Maurice and Lorraine Muhammad. Scholastically, he has been recognized for his achievements of Honor Society and Honor Roll. He is active in school extracurricular activities, as well as community activities. He's a leader, is ambitious and will make a great Doctor. He is planning to attend Arizona State University in the Fall, majoring in Biological Sciences and then PreMed.

Aniya Lashay Thompson – Normal, IL - (Normal Community High School)

Aniya is a senior at Normal Community High School and the daughter of Tameka Thompson. Aniya has been honored for her scholastic achievements by being awarded many honors such as the Daughters of the American Revolution Award Winner. Aniya has excelled in Theater and demonstrated her leadership in Theater by serving as President of the Theater Club and past Treasurer. Aniya is also very engaged in volunteering and serving with many community organizations.



She proudly organized her local NAACP's Youth Council, collaborates with the Freshman Mentoring Program, and was the Treasurer for the local 4-H Program. Aniya plans to attend Ball State University in the Fall of 2021, majoring in Theater Creation.

Nathaniel Claybourne Tucker Allen –Champaign, IL - (Champaign Central H.S.)



Nathaniel is a senior at Champaign Central High School. He is the son of Caren Allen. Scholastically, he has received awards and honors that recognize his academic accomplishments, National Honor Society, to name one. He has numerous extracurricular activity awards in several sports, soccer, baseball and basketball and is quite active in community service activities. He plans to attend University of Wisconsin, Madison in the Fall, majoring in Sports Management.

Shaili Elaine McNeely – Champaign, IL - (Centennial High School)

Shaili is a senior at Centennial High School and the daughter of Vicki Browder. Her academic achievements have been recognized by her being inducted into the National Honors Society. Shaili has excelled in dance and is a dancer at Christian Rich and a dancer and teacher at the Urbana Fine Arts Center. In her spare time, you may see her in action as a Barista at Starbucks or in her current role as a shift manager. Shaili is active and always eager to support within her community by serving food at the Church of the Living God, helping neighbors with childcare needs, and assisting with various fundraisers. Shaili will attend the University of Illinois this fall majoring in Animal Science.



Naijah Lynn Tinsley – Champaign, IL - (Champaign Central High School)



Naijah is a graduate of Champaign Central High School, and daughter of Notoura Tinsley. Naijah has received numerous scholastic awards and was named to Central's High School honor roll for multiple years. Naijah has been involved in multiple activities in her school and community including Habitat for Humanity. She will be attending University of Missouri in the Fall majoring in Political Science-Pre-Law.

Ryan Caleb Bartley – Decatur, IL - (MacArthur High School)



Ryan is a senior at MacArthur High School and the son of Karen Bartley. Ryan's outstanding academic performance has been recognized by his presence on the High Honor Roll as well as his induction into the National Honor Society. He also played varsity basketball for MacArthur High School. Ryan is passionate for his community and volunteers with Decatur's Salvation Red Kettle Fundraising Program and WSOY's yearly Food Drive. Ryan's commitment to his community likewise leads him to assist his neighbors with lawn care needs and helping them take care of their pets. Ryan plans to attend Mt. Mercy University in the Fall of 2021.

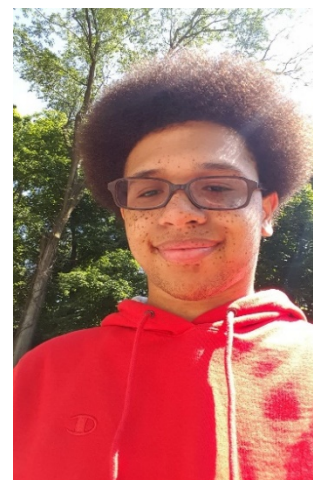
Destani Diane Lannett Peoples-Decatur (MacArthur High School)

Destani is a senior at MacArthur High School and is the daughter of Dorrean Wilson. She has been recognized for her academics by being on honor roll and high honor roll thru out her 4 years in High School. She is ambitious and active in extracurricular and community activities. She will be attending Washington University in St Louis, Missouri. She will be majoring in Biology.



Terrance Antwain Tally II – Decatur, IL - (Eisenhower High School)

Terrance is a senior at Eisenhower High School and the son of Roberta Tally. Terrance’s academic achievements have been recognized by his induction into the National Honor Society, 2021 Gold Delta, and 2021 Cum Laude. He has demonstrated exceptional leadership by serving on Eisenhower’s Student Council, Class Council, and Student Government. Terrance is active as a community and school volunteer by assisting at GT Church and with Eisenhower’s Booster Club, Kids Track Volunteer, Student Council Fundraising Committees. Terrance plans to attend University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in the Fall of 2021 majoring in Computer Science.



La'Rayia M. Jackson – Peoria, IL - (Peoria High School)

La'Rayia is a graduate of Peoria High School, and the daughter of Adrienne Beck. La'Rayia is a member of the National Honor Society and was active in numerous extra-curricular activities including student council and Key Club. La'Rayia has been a volunteer in many community organizations and is choosing to attend either Xavier University of Louisiana or Harris Stowe State University and major in Psychology in the Fall.



Jaylen D. Pounds – Peoria, IL - (Manual Academy High School)

Jaylen is a graduate of Manual High School and is the daughter of Sonya and Fred Pounds. Jaylen has been on the honor roll all years of high school and inducted into National Honor Society. She was a member of the Manual High School speech team and was active in Student Council. She enjoyed community service and Jaylen is excited to attend Illinois Central College in the fall and majoring in photography.

Jaylin Malik Sprattling – Peoria, IL - (Peoria High School)



Jaylin is a graduate of Peoria High School and the son of Freyda Sprattling. Jaylin has been on the honor roll all four years and inducted into National Honor Society. Jaylin has been active in her school and community and has served in student government for many years. Jaylin is planning to attend Northern Illinois University of University of Illinois-Chicago majoring in Political Science.