



# WILLIAMS-FRANKLIN FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



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## AN EVENING OF GRATITUDE



In November, WFF hosted an “Evening of Gratitude” dinner for current awardees, alumni awardees, and the Board of Directors to jump-start the holiday season. Over dinner, students and Board Members shared laughs, stories, and experiences about their college years and “adulting”. This was the first in-person gathering with the WFF Scholars since the pandemic.\* The Williams-Franklin Foundation invests in our WFF Scholars so they may sow seeds and impact the lives of others. When asked what advice they would give current awardees, a few WFF alumni awardees responded:

- “Do something for your future self-every day.” — Jemiah Williams, Howard University Class of 2020
- “Give yourself grace.” — Marvellous Oke, Morgan State University Class of 2020
- “Be your own boss in multiple ways and love God.” — Zuri Godfrey, Howard University Class of 2020

*\*All attendees provided proof of vaccination for COVID-19. No cases of COVID-19 were reported from the event.*

## GIVING TUESDAY

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Giving Tuesday is *here!* and a powerful way to be the change we want to see in the lives of young people and in the

communities that surround us. To realize this change, it requires radical and consistent generosity to support important causes in which the framework was laid and now it is up to us to build upon. Education is one of those important causes that was not accessible to all without the determination and innovation of those who came before us. Now it is up to us, collectively, to give what we can to **INVEST, EDUCATE** and **IMPACT** the life of a college student. So, please [donate](#) to **WFF TODAY** and spread the word to your friends, families and places of employment to create a movement of generosity that lasts throughout the year!

## WFF SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT



Nya Love is a sophomore Biology major, Chemistry minor at Dillard University from Little Rock, Arkansas. This year, Nya was selected by President Walter M. Kimbrough to be a Presidential Ambassador for the last cohort of the President’s Organization for Dillard’s Up-and-Coming Superstars (PODUS). As a Presidential Ambassador, Nya serves as an ambassador and coordinator for special events.

She also receives professional and academic development through mentorship from PODUS alumni and training to enter leadership roles on campus.

Recently, Nya served as the personal assistant and Student Ambassador for Mac Phipps, former No Limit rapper, following his release from a 20-year prison sentence for a crime he did not commit. Phipps spoke at Freshman Convocation earlier this semester. Nya also volunteered at a “Law and Society” lecture with guest speaker Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice, Kristen Clarke.

## WFF SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT



Taryn Wilkins, graduate of Howard University Class of 2021, is a former Intern for the Williams-Franklin Foundation. Taryn is currently a first-year law student at Columbia Law School pursuing her Juris Doctorate degree. Recently, Taryn was selected to be a 1L

Representative for the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) at Columbia. As a 1L Representative, Taryn will plan one event per semester for BLSA as well as help plan a graduation event for 3Ls in BLSA. Taryn also has the honor of attending board meetings and advocating for first-year members of BLSA. Congratulations, Taryn!

## CORPORATE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT



The WFF likes to highlight donors who have consistently paid it forward by sponsoring the education of an HBCU student and donating to the Foundation. [IVY Planning Group \(IVY\)](#) is a full-service management consulting and training firm. IVY provides strategy, change management, and leadership development to Fortune 1000 companies, large nonprofits, and government organizations.

Janet and Gary Smith, co-founders of the IVY Planning Group, have consistently donated to the Williams-Franklin Foundation and support our efforts to enrich the lives of HBCU students. Bradley C. Smith, Consultant and Product Manager at IVY, currently serves as a mentor for one of our WFF Scholars through the Mentor Matching Program! Thank you, IVY Planning Group, for your generous sponsorship to support HBCU students with extreme financial need. For more information on how to become a Sponsor, please visit our [website](#) and/or contact us at [info@wmsfranklinfoundation.org](mailto:info@wmsfranklinfoundation.org).

*“Ivy Planning Group exists to eliminate systemic inequities. Our partnership with our clients represents a shared belief in the need to create opportunity. We are excited to support the Williams Franklin Foundation as they help students overcome the financial barriers they may face, while creating the programs that enable success. Talent is in large supply. Opportunity must be as well.” — Janet and Gary Smith, Co-founders, Ivy Planning Group*



## ANNUAL BOARD RETREAT

The WFF Board of Directors and Executive Director met for an annual retreat at a nearby conference center this month. The retreat was facilitated by Tim Kime, president of Kime Leadership Associates. Mr. Kime led WFF’s leadership in a series of sessions to discuss WFF’s vision, goals and strategy for a successful 2022. The retreat concluded with each participant being more connected to our mission and committed to using their identified “superpower” to serve more WFF Scholars in support of their educational and professional pursuits.

