

WILLIAMS-FRANKLIN FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



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VEA MASQUERADE BALL

The Williams-Franklin Foundation would like to give a HUGE THANK YOU to LaKeshia Grant Shephard, CEO of Virtual Enterprise Architects (VEA), for selecting the WFF to be the 2019 VEA Cloud Masquerade Ball fundraiser beneficiary. The event included dinner, dancing, a live and silent auction with items such as international vacation packages, premium art, professional sport events and paraphernalia and much more. This event raised over \$20,000 and will greatly assist the WFF with furthering our mission!

LUNCH AND LEARN

During each program year, the foundation hosts Lunch and Learn sessions to gather board members and WFF Scholars to network, engage in enlightening conversation, create mentor-mentee relationships, while enjoying a great meal. On October 27th, awardees in the DMV area met at Ben's Next Door and discussed current events, their progress in school and concerns about their future. WFF board member, Keisha Mack, shared life advice that "it will never be a straight path through life, but you will learn something on every twist and turn along the way." Two graduating WFF Scholars reflected over their college experience and shared the importance of academic excellence while balancing it with "FUN" and "mental breaks".



ALVARO L. MARTINS SCHOLARSHIP

At the Executive Leadership Council Gala, WFF Scholar, Zuri Godfrey was awarded the Alvaro L. Martins Scholarship. The scholarship is open to high achieving undergraduate black male athletes attending an HBCU. Demetra Stewart, a member of the WFF Application Selection Committee was there to congratulate him after receiving the award.



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WFF SCHOLAR AND BOARD MEMBER SERVING COMMUNITY

WFF board member Keisha Mack and a two-time WFF Awardee, Noah Nicholas, participated in the Stomp Out Sickle Cell Walk/Run at Howard University Hospital on September 21st, 2019. This was the 13th annual walk/run that benefits the sickle cell center and Faces of Our Children, an organization with a goal to raise awareness and funding for sickle cell research. The event took place at Howard University Hospital where there is a specialized Sickle Cell Center, they recognize the need to spread awareness of sickle cell disease and to continue research.

GIVING TUESDAY

We have an unprecedented opportunity to scale generosity around the globe. Giving is not just about making a donation, it is about making a difference. Between now and Giving Tuesday on December 3, WFF has a goal to raise \$10,000 but it is only possible from the help of our sponsors. Williams-Franklin Foundation is more than just a scholarship, it is a mentoring and networking opportunity for our scholars during and after college. Giving Tuesday is an extra special day this year because it falls on the foundation's anniversary! As the holiday season approaches remember to show acts of kindness and goodwill to create connections.



#GIVING
TUESDAY™

CONNECTING WFF SCHOLARS TO LEADERS

As a WFF supporter, Maryland State Delegate Jay Walker funded a 2019-20 scholarship for WFF Scholar Marvellous Oke, senior Psychology Major at Morgan State University. On October 28, 2019, Ms. Oke and WFF co-founders met Maryland State Delegate Jay Walker to personally thank him for his generosity. In addition to receiving a personal tour of the House of Delegates Building in Annapolis Maryland, we engaged in a lively conversation about the mental health effects of marijuana on a college students brain, Ms. Oke's senior thesis. Delegate Walker took interest in Ms. Oke's senior thesis and asked that she return in the spring to provide testimony before the Ways and Means Committee where Delegate Walker serves as Vice Chair. Go Marvellous!

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