



WILLIAMS-FRANKLIN FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



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THE GIFT THAT KEEPS GIVING



As a consequence of COVID19, many of our 2020 WFF Scholars had to return home and go to school virtually. Having a computer became an essential school supply to continue their education. Realizing that this may be an obstacle for some students, donor and HBCU alumnus **Brandon DePass** generously donated two brand new laptops to the Williams-Franklin Foundation. So, when we later learned that 2020 WFF Scholars Zhane Austin and Abrianna Canyon needed laptops, we quickly responded to the call! We are more than just a scholarship!

“Having a support system like this foundation has been life changing both mentally and physically. What you guys do for students like me is a true blessing. Thank you so much!” - Abrianna Canyon, Howard University Class of 2023. “Again, I cannot thank the organization enough for this, I have been signing into all of my classes so far on my phone. I can't even imagine how helpful this will be.” - Zhane Austin, Hampton University Class of 2021. [Click here](#) for Brandon's message.

WFF SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT VIRGIL PARKER



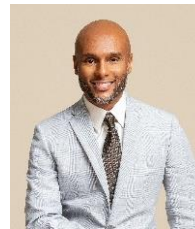
WFF Scholar **Virgil Parker**, Howard University Class of 2022, is a former fellow of the Aspen Institute's Program on Philanthropy and Social Innovation. Last month, he had an opportunity to contribute to a blog post entitled “A Guide to America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities”. In his post, he not only discusses the history of HBCUs but their impact on our world today. Virgil also includes relevant books, articles, and films that expand on the importance of HBCUs. He also provides a list of organizations that are committed to investing in the growth of our beloved institutions. [Click here](#) to read more. Virgil was also featured in a Forbes article where he discusses the legacy of HBCUs as well as his own experience at Howard: “It's a family experience. These are people who understand you as a person. They can articulate and speak about your culture while relating to you on intellectual and social levels. It becomes very valuable because it is almost like taking a class with your mom.” **WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU, VIRGIL!** [Click here](#) to read more.

WFF SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT ZURI GODFREY



WFF Scholar **Zuri Godfrey**, Howard University Class of 2021, accepted a full-time job offer with Google, post-graduation. Zuri interned with Google this past summer as a Brand Strategist. He will be joining Google as an Associate Product Marketing Manager in the Bay Area of California. Zuri has also recently founded “Build & Brand You” a brand development company focused on enhancing students' professional competencies with the end goal in mind of receiving job offers. His company's Instagram handle is [@buildbrandyou](#). **CONGRATULATIONS, ZURI!**

VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER CONCERT



Under the Raise Your Hand campaign, the Williams-Franklin Foundation hosted a virtual fundraiser concert featuring award winning singer, **Kenny Lattimore** on September 26th. Kenny Lattimore, a Howard alumnus, dazzled our virtual audience with tunes ranging from swing jazz, classical and R&B music. He also spoke on the importance of receiving an HBCU education and why it is important to give. He said, “whatever you have to give is enough”. Along with being a vocal artist, he has interests in architecture, bowling and inspiring youth in the arts and education. We were so honored to have him perform and help us in our continuing goal to support HBCU students with scholarships and programming. [Click here](#) to see the clip.

WHAT THE PANDEMIC MEANS FOR HBCUs



A UNCF poll reported “80 percent of students, particularly first-year students, preferred to return to campus for some level of in-person instruction.” If that tells you anything, it is that HBCU students really value the education and community they have on campus. For those who have returned to school completely, there is a challenge of staying healthy in a college environment. For those who are completely virtual, online learning while dealing with racial injustice and lack of sufficient technology are added layers of stress and difficulty. We cannot ignore the benefit of HBCUs on students of color and the Black community. As we deal with political and social injustices plaguing the nation, we must remain steadfast in our efforts to keep HBCUs relevant and sustainable as they are the hollow grounds where many influential leaders and thinkers had their humble beginnings. That is why the Williams-Franklin Foundation is committed to investing, educating and impacting students all over the country so they are able to complete their education and become the change agents that our world is waiting for, despite the pandemic.