

The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program (BSAP)

Resilience, Courage, Drive, Persistence



THE BERNIE SCHOLARSHIP
AWARDS PROGRAM

FALL 2019



76

**SCHOLARSHIPS IN
2019**

Most Ever | 2

**MEET OUR NEW
BOARD MEMBERS
and OFFICERS**

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*Make an Impact: How You Can Help
Individuals Achieve Their
Educational Goals!*

CELEBRATING 76 SCHOLARS IN 2019

Every year, BSAP hosts a free Awards Event to celebrate our new or multi-year scholars. We honor their hard work, courage, drive, resilience and persistence. Awardees complete applications and meet Board members on Interview Day. The Awards Event is our chance to congratulate them on their accomplishments and their educational and career goals.

Dipping into reserve funds, in 2019 we proudly awarded 76 scholars, the most ever in 24 years!



I just graduated from high school and will start college for a B.S. Degree in Cybersecurity. My older brother got me very interested in Cybersecurity. My goal now is to have a career in Cybersecurity as a Penetration Tester or Security Analyst with the government. My siblings have motivated me to be the best that I can be. I will continuously expand my certifications to go along with my B.S.; I must work hard for my goals.
Christ-Clemens Athiobey



Only my father went to college, but didn't finish. I wanted to be different and took honors classes, but when I was 16 my father went to prison, shattering my dreams. I got pregnant at 19, lost my job and had to drop out of school. When my father was freed in 2014, he worked jobs to avoid drugs and in 2016 got a job with the Coalition for the Homeless. He looked for kids and others to take off the street, give them shelter and mentor them to avoid drugs. He set up a nonprofit, and after he died of cancer in 2018, I became President of his nonprofit. I am at UMUC completing a B.S. in Business Administration, so I can expand our nonprofit. **Whitney Carter**



I grew up with three older brothers raised by our mom because my dad couldn't be there. It was rough; we struggled financially, moving every year, barely making ends meet. Our mom always found a way; faith in God got us through. I made sure to get good grades in school, because I knew that my education was the key to success. My struggles at home pushed me and motivated me to do better and have that mindset to get up and get what I wanted because who else was going to do it for me? One of my favorite quotes highlights this: "You can complain because roses have thorns, or you can rejoice because thorns have roses." -Ziggy When I finish my B.S. in Biology, I will go to Medical School to become a Pediatrician. **Armoni Jackson**



APPLICANTS: BE SURE TO LOOK FOR OUR 2020 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORMS ON OUR WEBSITE IN JANUARY!

THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program expresses its deep gratitude to these outstanding Board members who will continue their ongoing support for the program but who retired from the Board in 2019:

Tracee Matthias joined the Board in 2007. We will truly miss her essential role in navigating the screening of eligible applicants and her higher education expertise to advance BSAP students' success. Like many of our Bernie scholars, she is working toward her academic and career advancement goals, while managing an active household. She recently completed her MBA at Frostburg State University and will be applying for admission to doctoral programs soon. She continues to serve students through Montgomery College's (MC) Workforce Development and Continuing Education department. In 2019 she received an MC Excellence in Equity Award, recognizing her goals of diversity, equity, and inclusion through her involvement with various groups and committees directly linked to students' success.

Linda Mericle joined the Board in 2018 and was very active in Development, Governance (as an attorney, she wrote BSAP's new By-Laws) and Executive Committees. She also made our silent auction successful at the April 2018 Friend Raiser.

New Approach for our Board of Directors:

BSAP has reduced the size of the Board in line with charitable organization best practices. We've formed an equally valuable Volunteer Group to work with the Board. This group will consist of: Diana Benson, Delores Cole, Kimberly Hanson, Dr. Rodney Redmond, Polina Tai, Theresa Wells and Suresh Arora. Each volunteer will join and assist one or more Board Committees. Before an individual becomes a Board Member, he/she will be required to actively participate in the Volunteer Group for a period of at least 1 year. We look forward to their active roles on the Committees and welcome new individuals to join.

Current Board Members:

Tom Clark, Tosha Dyson, Aziza El Bahja, Larry Eldridge, Lynn Feakes, Silvio Renzi, Nancy Scull, Cassandra (Sandy) Smith and Sonya Turner are the current Board members.

New Board Members:



Thomas Clark joined the Board in 2019. He is BSAP's first Treasurer. See more about Tom below.

Sonya Hall Turner has over 25 years of legal experience. She currently is the Vice President, Contracts at Turning Point Global Solutions LLC in Rockville, MD. She is a member of National Council for Negro Women Montgomery County, MD, volunteers at BlackRock Center for Performing Arts, Kingdom Fellowship AME and as the Drive Outreach Coordinator for Swab a Cheek, Save a Life. Sonya is a graduate of University of North Carolina at Greensboro in English, received her MBA and MS in Contract Management and Procurement from University of Maryland, University College, Paralegal Certificate in Business Finance and Corporate Law, and Interior Decorator Certificate.



NEW OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Silvio Renzi is President, after joining the Board in 2018 and serving as Board Vice Chair. He is Executive Vice President at Zephyr Technology Services in Annapolis, MD. He has over 25 years of experience as an entrepreneur building and managing businesses. Silvio is dedicated to service, holds various positions within his community, and he volunteers for various charities including Ride Allegheny (an organization raising over \$500k per year for Operation Second Chance). Silvio holds an MBA from Seton Hall University and a BSBA from Boston University where he was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity.



Larry Eldridge is Vice President; he also joined the Board in 2018. He retired in 2017 from 36 years as a Hospital Administrator at National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical Center. He served on the Board of the Friends of the Clinical Center. He had served on the Board of the Laurel (MD) Historical Society and rejoined that Board in July 2018. Since March 2018, he has been a volunteer mediator with the Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County, and he is a 2019 member of Senior Leadership Montgomery. Larry has a MS in Hospital Administration from Columbia University and a BS in Economics from New York University.



Tom Clark is Treasurer; he joined the Board in 2019. Tom Clark is the Chief Financial Officer at Georgetown Law School. Previously he worked as Vice President of JP Morgan Chase, Divisional Vice President and Controller at Prudential Financial and also worked for the law firm of Milbank Tweed Hadley and McCloy. Tom holds a Business Management degree from St. Francis College, an M.B.A in Finance from Pace University and a J.D. degree from New York Law School. Tom is also the Vice President and Treasurer for the Maryland Writers Association-Montgomery County chapter.



ADVISORY MEMBERS *We are grateful for these committed helpful Advisory members:*

Bruce Adams	Catherine Leggett
Judge Paul McGuckian	Susan Messitte
George Payne	Ruby Rubens
Otis Smith	Bernie Tetreault

CONSULTANTS TO THE BOARD *We are very fortunate to have these outstanding volunteer consultants:*

Sep Fraunhoffer (Webmaster/Media Expert since 2016)
Steve Durako (Grant writer since 2019)
Laurie Hart (Marketing advisor since 2019)

MESSAGE FROM BSAP'S CO-FOUNDER BERNIE TETREault

Dear Friends of The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program:

Each year at this time, the Board of the Scholarship Program reaches out to urge you to support The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program (BSAP). It is mainly from people like you that we receive the funds needed to support the program. Thank you on behalf of these worthy scholars.

This year the program made 76 awards, our highest number ever, bringing our total awards to 600 and the total dollars awarded to \$725,200. With your generous support, we are helping low-income individuals achieve their academic and personal goals of upward mobility.

Clearly the need for scholarship funds is increasing tremendously each year. Our awardees are determined to improve their lives and those of future generations.

Help us continue to improve the educational opportunities for Montgomery County Maryland's low-income residents living in subsidized rental housing.



Although I am trying to simplify my life by cutting back on my volunteer activities, including no longer serving on The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program's Board of Directors, there is no less commitment on my part to these deserving scholars. I felt comfortable doing so, as there is in place an active and committed Board, as well as a connected group of advisors, volunteers and consultants.

To make tax-deductible donations, you can do it easily at:
<https://cfncr.wufoo.com/forms/the-bernie-scholarship-fund>.

You can also mail donations payable to The Bernie Fund, to
P.O. Box 2514, Rockville, MD 20847.

Let us know if you choose to be a 3-year sustainable donor from 2020 to 2022; that would help us address the growing need of our low-income families.



With gratitude and my warmest personal regards, *Bernie*

GOALS IN 2020 -- BSAP'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY!

Raise \$140,000 -- increase awards to \$2,000 for 70 scholars

25th Anniversary Gala for awardees and donors -- \$10,000

If you wish to donate (tax-deductible), click here: <https://berniescholarships.org/postcard-campaign/>

See BSAP honored in Montgomery Magazine! Go to www.montgomerymag.com, click link to the right on **Current Issue**, scroll to page 68-69 **The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program**. Then see page 62-63, you may choose the restaurant to which you wish to receive an appreciation gift by donating \$25 or more to The Bernie, mail your check to Montgomery Magazine's office, and name the restaurant's gift card you want mailed to you.

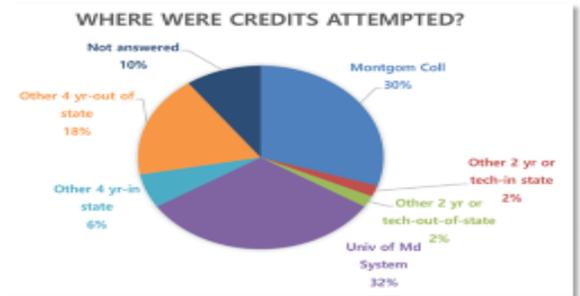
You will enjoy watching this video: See and hear from more 2019 BSAP awardees: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1nhQk8elq8>.

Carole Taylor
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COLLEGE CONSENSUS, a unique new college review aggregator, has recognized The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program in its survey of the [Top 5 Scholarships in Maryland](#). The ranking indicates that BSAP is both an important contributor to making college more affordable and it invests in students' long-term success: <https://www.collegeconsensus.com/scholarships/maryland/>.

How Bernie Scholarships Help

- Provide support with:
 - Gap financing
 - Guidance & Mentoring
- Whom we support:
 - 70% of our Scholars are women
 - Almost 70% are African-American
 - 14% are Latino
- **98% of our Scholars persist and complete or continue their educational goals**



Financial Aid Difficulties for the Poor

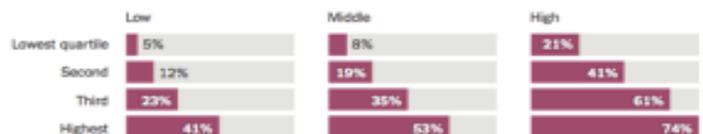
Financing College is Difficult for the Poor:

- Lack of money
- Lack of parental college experience/guidance
- Difficulty balancing job with academics
- Become overburdened with debt
- **1975 Pell Grants covered 66% of college costs -- Today it's only 15%**

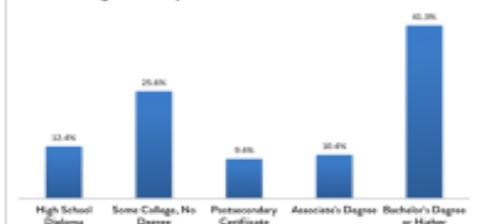
Financing the Poor is Difficult for Colleges:

- More financial aid is moving to high achieving students... usually to the higher income too
- Accepting Low-Income Students is Risky for Colleges
 - Take too many and your average GPA drops... along with your U.S. News Ranking
 - If these students are accepted and drop out, then bond ratings suffer

B.A. completion rate in three socio-economic groups, ranked in four groups of math test scores.



How far do smart, poor kids make it through school?
 Educational among low-SES high school sophomores whose math test scores placed them among the top quarter of students. Source: The Educational Longitudinal Study of 2002.



2019 Donor Acknowledgement

We greatly appreciate BSAP supporters' generosity and commitment to the mission of The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program.

You are helping us make dreams of a better future come true for low-income Montgomery County residents in subsidized housing who want to pursue college education or vocational training opportunities.

Who are BSAP's awardees?

92% are minorities; 50% are 18-24 years of age

98% complete college degrees/certification or are still in school.

Educational Goals: 67% Bachelors, 17% Associates, 7% Masters, 2% vocational

Career Goals: Computer/IT Scientists, Cybersecurity Officers, Software/Mechanical Engineers; Medical Doctors, Occupational Therapists; Business/Nonprofit Entrepreneurs; Attorneys; Teachers; Engineers; Human Resources Officers; Social Workers; Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Officers; Media Artists; Veterinarians.
Most are employed while in school and in summer or during holiday breaks.

Many thanks to the following 2019 donors of \$1,000 or more!

Janet and Allan Akman

Marian and Jim Brodsky

Georgia and Steve Bupp

Larry and Barbara Eldridge

William E. Cross Foundation

Alice and Eugene Ford Foundation

Pettit Family Charitable Foundation

Jim and Carol Trawick Foundation

The Hart Fund

Doug and Marybeth McDaniel

Paul and Floria McGuckian

Linda and John Mericle

Rodney Redmond for Daisy Gilmore

Square, Inc.

Christopher W. Ullman

CONNECT WITH US

We invite you to connect with The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program on social media!

Please take a moment and visit our pages and click "Like" or "Follow." We look forward to bringing you lots of great information and keeping in touch. We hope you will comment on our posts and feel free to ask any questions or share our content with friends and family who would benefit from the information. You can help us spread the word about BSAP with your network and a broad audience! We ask that you use hashtag suggestions when sharing posts (#BSAP #Education #Scholarships #BernieScholarships #Mentors #Success #UpwardMobilty #inspire #BSAPAchieve).

@Bernie_Scholars



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facebook.com/theberniescholarship/

Donations are tax-deductible.

\$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000

\$2,000 \$3,000 \$5,000 \$10,000

3-year Sustainable Donor 2020-2022

BSAP is a component fund of the Greater
Washington Community Foundation.

Your contribution
will help
individuals
receive a college
education and
new
opportunities for
success!!

The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program

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www.berniescholarships.org

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