

The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program

Fall 2020 Newsletter

The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program's mission is to provide financial assistance for college or training programs to graduating high school seniors and other adults who live in subsidized housing in Montgomery County, Maryland



www.berniescholarship.org

The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program
P.O. Box 2514, Rockville, MD 20847



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Success Stories



Armoni Jackson is in her third year of BSAP awards; she's in her junior year at Hood College in Maryland maintaining a 3.72 GPA toward her B.S. in Biology. She plans to become either a pediatrician or an attorney. She's a First Generation college student from a family of 5 & has continued to take 16-18 credits per semester. She has received academic and leadership awards and has maintained employment while studying; she's now a Resident Assistant.



Melvin Cooper completed his B.S. in May with a 3.5 GPA in Informational Technology with a concentration in Cybersecurity at Broward College in Florida, after 3 ½ years of courses and four years of BSAP awards. He now has full-time employment at an IT company. Melvin is also a First Generation college student from a family of 6 and has been chosen for the Honor Society & Student Government. He is continuing to take Cybersecurity certifications.



The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program

October 2020

Dear Friends of The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program:

In these troubled times, I hope this finds you and yours well. Please take the extra precautions that these times require, masks and social distancing.

As you have experienced, it has been an especially difficult year for our scholars as well. Most were forced to leave campus and learn remotely. Many lost internships or jobs needed to meet living and educational expenses.

This year the Awards Ceremony was held virtually, where 62 awards were made bringing our totals to 657 awards and \$802,200 as we celebrated our 25th year. For the second year, 24 applicants headed for Montgomery College (MC) bypassed BSAP processes, due to our \$25,000 fund gift to MC Foundation. Your generous support is changing these students' lives. Awardees are placing their hopes for a better life through their education and in you, to get that education. All are low-income neighbors who can't afford higher education without your help.

BSAP awardees are individuals who are overlooked by other scholarship programs. They are eager, capable people who have goals and potential. A few are high school seniors, and most are later life learners, adults beginning or continuing their education. The results from our Effectiveness Studies indicate that our scholars are finishing their degrees and are employed or are still in school pursuing their academic dreams (and often are also employed)!! Many are studying to earn degrees in public service careers.

I recognize that some of you may be in the same difficult situation as many of our awardees. If that means a reduced contribution, I will understand. Others of you, however, may be approaching my age and circumstances and are meeting your needs through Social Security and well-earned retirement. You may want to donate from your IRA or other retirement account. Maybe you can help make up the difference for those less fortunate.

Each year at this time, I ask you personally to support, or continue to support, this worthy program, and you have regularly responded in the positive. To make a donation, go to: <https://cfncr.wufoo.com/forms/the-bernie-scholarship-fund>. You may prefer to make a check payable to The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program, and mail it to P.O. Box 2514, Rockville, MD 20847.

Gratefully and Sincerely,

Bernie

Co-Founder

The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program
P.O. Box 2514, Rockville, MD 20847



The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program



The Greater Washington Community Foundation (GWCF). The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program is a 501(c)3, a component fund of GWCF. Please visit our website: www.berniescholarships.org

Connect with The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program on social media! We have social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn), where we offer information, tips, videos, articles and other topics.



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[linkedin.com/in/berniescholarships](https://www.linkedin.com/in/berniescholarships)
[facebook.com/theberniescholarship/](https://www.facebook.com/theberniescholarship/)

COVID-19 has gravely impacted our fundraising necessary to continue supporting the underserved in Montgomery County. Will you please help us? No amount is too small.

Your support in the past has been invaluable; you are our “heroes!” We are relying on you to continue supporting The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program, an award-winning organization that changes lives and future generations. Please share this message; together we can make a difference for those who desperately need our help.

Our Goals for 2021

Expand our Board to expand functions and leadership

Recruit specialists to grow our community visibility

Rebuild funds to enable continuing multi-year awards

Focus on adult awardees, most of whom are working parents

Redirect high schoolers to County programs that focus on high school students and to our fund gift to MC Foundation



The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program

Much gratitude to these donors of \$1,000 plus supporting 2020-2021 awards:

Individuals

Janet and Allan Akman

Jim and Marian Brodsky

Doug and Mary Beth McDaniel

Paul and Floria McGuckian

Linda and John Mericle

Silvio and Ailene Renzi

Shirley Brandman and Howard Shapiro

Chris Ullman

Grants

Compass DC On Demand Project (in-kind)

Helping Hands Society of Greater Washington/NAIFA

Montgomery County MD Delta Alumnae Foundation

Montgomery County Muslim Foundation

Pettit Family Charitable Fund

The Hart Fund

Wolpoff Family Foundation

William E. Cross Foundation



Your donations make dreams come true: 

\$500 pays for one course

\$1,000 pays for one year's textbooks

\$2,500 pays for one semester's basic tuition

\$5,300 pays for one year's basic tuition and fees

Please visit us online to make a donation at www.berniescholarships.org

BSAP is in search of expert volunteer leaders! If you think you have what it takes or knows someone who does, please contact berniescholarships@gmail.com for more information. The following Board positions are available:

- President
- Vice President
- Promotions, Events
- Grant Advisor
- Social Media Content
- Website Developer

SCHOLARSHIPS

In 2020, awardees receive \$2,000 to use toward education related expenses. Our applicants are diverse:

2020 BERNIE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

RECIPIENTS*:

Ikram A.
Dalya A.
Mariam A.
Aliza A.
Chinomso A.
Natnael A.
Anais A.
T'Kai A.
Dagemawe B.
Dylan B.
Giodona C.
Whitney C.
Amber C.
Melvin C.



Jaylen D.
Simone D.
Nadia F.
Staisha F.
Jessica H.
Yesuf H.
Janiya H.
Armoni J.
Natnael K.
Samrawit K.
Destini K.
Esraa M.
Amina M.
Iqra M.
Donicia Q.
Zahra R.
Qurratulain S.
Ellen S.
Najma S.
Serena S.
Jack T.
Mikal T.
Jiruwak T.
Aden W.

*About 20 more students at Montgomery College (MC) will receive BSAP funds through MC Foundation!

BSAP BOARD

Silvio Renzi, President
Tom Clark, Treasurer
Aziza El-Bahja
Lynn Feakes
Nancy Scull
Sonya Turner



Visit us at www.berniescholarships.org



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HIGHLIGHTS

2020 is BSAP's 25th Anniversary

-

We're featured in Montgomery Magazine's January Charity Issue

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College Consensus ranked BSAP #1 in Maryland's top 5 scholarship programs.

-

See our latest Effectiveness Study on our website, berniescholarships.org

-

July 2020 Virtual Celebration for Awardees with Keynote Speaker, *Guy Fillipelli*



AWARDEE PROFILE

98% of awardees complete or continue studies

-

50% of awardees are immigrants

-

53% of awardees are first generation students

NEWS

We are saddened that Patricia Scissors (January 30) and Ruby Rubens (February 27) passed away earlier this year.

-

Both were strong advocates for equal opportunities and active leaders for BSAP.

-

Kani Basse, Consultant for Social Media Marketing

-

Amy Kim, new Program Administrator

SAVE BERNIE NOW

Our scholarships provide "gap funding" to help with books, tuition, and much more. No amount is too small and it's tax deductible.

Please consider donating. We need you. Make a big impact by helping your local community. Visit our website to learn how you can help.

E-NEWSLETTER

Help BSAP go green and sign up for our e-newsletter! Email berniescholarships@gmail.com

