

HONORING OUR SCHOLARS

MAY 17, 2025

*Class of 2025*  
PHASE 30



*Whitney M. Young  
Scholars Program*

WHITNEY M. YOUNG LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

# Lift Every Voice and Sing

James Weldon Johnson, 1899

John Rosamond Johnson



1. Lift ev-ery voice and sing, till earth and Heav-en ring, Ring with the har - mo - nies of  
2. Ston-y the road we trod, bit - ter the chast-ening rod, Felt in the days when hope un-  
3. God of our wear-y years, God of our si - lent tears, Thou Who hast brought us thus far

lib - er - ty; Let our re - joic - ing rise, high as the lis - tening skies, Let it re-  
- born had died; Yet with a stead-y beat, have not our wear-y feet, Come to the  
on the way; Thou Who hast by Thy might, led us in - to the light, Keep us for-

- sound loud as the roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has  
- place for which our fa - thers sighed? We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been  
- ev - er in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we

taught us, Sing a song full of the hope that the pre - sent has brought us; Fac-ing the  
wa - tered, We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered; Out from the  
met Thee. Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get Thee. Sha-dowed be-

ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun, Let us march on till vic-to - ry is won.  
- gloom-y past, till now we stand at last Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.  
- neath Thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

# WHITNEY M. YOUNG SCHOLARS PROGRAM

## 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior Banquet

**Bellarmine University – Frazier Hall**  
**May 17, 2025 • 6:00 p.m.**

### Phase 30 Processional

Master and Mistress of Ceremonies (Class of 2026) ..... Cameron Sharpe & Naomi Fields  
Introduction of the Whitney M. Young Scholars Class of 2025 ..... Cameron Sharpe & Naomi Fields  
Scholar Oath ..... Neriah Rogers  
Welcome..... Juan Hernandez Trejo  
Lift Every Voice (Please Stand) ..... Louis Lipscomb & Destiny Cardell  
Invocation..... Joy Olaolorun

Dinner

### Reflections

Scholars ..... Rayna Mandadi & Louis Chavez Mora  
Parent ..... Liana Rogers  
Introduction of Speaker..... Malachi Ibn-Mohammed  
Keynote Speaker..... Adria Johnson  
President & CEO, Metro United Way

### Awards & Recognitions

Dr. Samuel Robinson Award of Excellence..... Marshall Bradley, Jr.  
Brian White Memorial Scholarship ..... Roslyn White/Kendrick Quisenberry  
Mae Street Kidd Scholarship..... Venita Benboe  
Lee B. Thomas, Jr. Scholarship ..... Venita Benboe  
Joseph H. Wimsatt Scholarship ..... Venita Benboe  
Simmons, Parrish, Gibbs, Norton Scholarship..... Gerald Tyrrell/Robert Tyrrell  
Angie V. McDonald Scholarship..... Larry M. McDonald  
Wanda Brown Scholarship ..... Vivian Warren Overall  
Charles & Mary Bell Scholarship ..... Quin Thomas  
Jerry & Laura Miller Scholarship..... Marshall Bradley, Jr.  
Karey B. Smith Scholarship ..... Marshall Bradley, Jr.  
Kentucky Minority Scholarship Fund..... Kathy Cooksie Neal and Senator Gerald Neal  
Elijah P. Marrs Scholarship ..... John Graham  
Dr. Arnita Young Boswell Scholarship..... Dr. TuNice M. Cole  
Whitney M. Young Scholar Alumni Scholarships..... Jacquelyn E. Ellis  
WYSP Class Recognitions..... Jacquelyn E. Ellis  
Closing Remarks ..... Marshall Bradley, Jr.



# Dear Scholars:

We gather to celebrate a momentous occasion as you complete your six-year journey through the rigorous Whitney M. Young Scholars Program. Your perseverance, dedication, and hard work have led you to this significant milestone, and we are immensely proud of you. Now, as you prepare to take your place in the world please remember to embrace every opportunity, stay curious, and fear no challenges. They are the stepping stones to reaching your goals.

As many of you prepare to become the first in your families to attend college, you carry with you the hopes and dreams of those who came before you. Your accomplishments are not yours alone; they are shared with your families, friends, and communities who have supported, prayed, and believed in you every step of the way.

Entering college this fall, you will embark on new adventures filled with opportunities to learn, grow, and have an impact. Find your voice. Embrace the diverse experiences and perspectives that will help you better understand the world and your place within it.

As you move forward, hold on to the values and principles that have guided you as a Whitney M. Young Scholar. Continue to strive for excellence and never forget the Scholar Oath.

Class of 2025, Phase 30—We celebrate your achievements today and look forward to the incredible impact you will make in the years to come. Your adventure is just beginning, and the world is yours to explore.

*Marshall Bradley, Jr.*

Marshall Bradley, Jr.  
President

## 2025 Senior Banquet Presenting Sponsor:



**BAIRD**

## Summa Cum Laude Sponsor:



## Magna Cum Laude Sponsors:



**STERLING  
THOMPSON  
COMPANY**

**WYATT**





# Keynote Speaker

## **Adria Johnson**

*President & CEO, Metro United Way*

Adria Johnson embodies the virtues of hope, integrity, and humanity. She has focused her career on lifting some of society's most vulnerable populations and serving others. She is a dedicated and well-respected servant leader with almost three decades of hands-on experience in public and private sectors. Ms. Johnson's proven ability to lead efforts toward reform and work collaboratively have served her well in her current position as President and Chief Executive Officer for Metro United Way.

Her compassionate leadership has resulted in providing expanded human services in neighborhood revitalization supports, preventive services for at-risk youth, and comprehensive services for children with greater behavioral and developmental needs. Additionally, Ms. Johnson has worked to provide employment opportunities for youth aging out of foster care, and to develop workforce opportunities for social services disciplines.

Before joining Metro United Way, Ms. Johnson served as Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Community-Based Services. Before serving in state government, Ms. Johnson held key roles in Louisville Metro Government ranging from Capital Planning Analyst in the Office of Management and Budget to Acting Director of the Department of Community Services and Revitalization. Early in her career, Ms. Johnson gained strong fiscal experience working in the private sector at Brown and Williamson, Humana, and LG&E.

Adria Johnson has been recognized as one of Louisville's most admired CEOs by Business-First and was included in 2024's Power 50 list as one of the most influential leaders in our community. In 2023, she was celebrated as a Daughter of Greatness by the Muhammad Ali Center.

Ms. Johnson received her bachelor's degree from Ball State University and completed several post-graduate courses at the University of Louisville. She is a published author, with a book of poetry released in 2004. She is a native of Louisville, has a daughter, and three precious grandchildren. Ms. Johnson's son, Kenneth Rhodes II, tragically passed away in late 2022, but his legacy continues to inspire and fuel her efforts.



## Put Your Clients First at Baird Louisville

At Baird, our Financial Advisors draw on the support and resources of a major firm. But since we're employee-owned and privately held, our focus is always on our clients' success – and not next quarter's numbers. Visit [louisville.bairdwealth.com](http://louisville.bairdwealth.com).

### Louisville

4803 Olympia Park Plaza, Suite 4000  
502-426-0790

Discover the *Baird Difference*

f in x @

©Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated. Member SIPC. MC-1645900.



**Brandon Moore**, Associate Branch Manager  
**Tania Miles**, Branch Administrative Manager  
**Bailey Mack**, Branch Administrative Manager  
**Chris Russell**, Executive Market Director, Branch Manager

# DR. SAMUEL ROBINSON *Award of Excellence*



Sponsored by:

**BAIRD**



**Juan Hernandez Trejo**

Butler Traditional High School

Each year, Lincoln Foundation honors a Whitney M. Young Scholar with the prestigious Dr. Samuel Robinson Award of Excellence, recognizing outstanding commitment to the college-readiness program. The award is named in honor of Dr. Samuel Robinson, President Emeritus, who created the Whitney M. Young Scholars Program in 1990. Scholars earn points based on academic performance, attendance, and active engagement. The senior scholar with the highest number of points earned receives this prestigious award.

Lincoln Foundation and Baird are pleased to present Juan Hernandez Trejo with the 2025 Dr. Samuel Robinson Award of Excellence! In addition, he will receive the Educational Opportunity Scholarship that includes a \$5,000 annually renewable scholarship totaling \$20,000. Juan may also receive up to \$2,500 each year to cover the cost of computers, technology, and other supplies. Finally, the Educational Opportunity Scholarship will award Juan up to \$10,000 for study abroad.

Juan Hernandez Trejo has proven to be a driven and accomplished student at Butler Traditional High School, excelling academically and as a leader in various extracurricular activities. A dedicated member of the Whitney M. Young Scholars Program since seventh grade, Juan is committed to academic excellence, leadership, and personal growth.

Throughout high school, he has taken on multiple leadership roles, including serving as treasurer of Future Business Leaders of America, team captain of his high school archery team, and Commonwealth sponsor at the Kentucky Youth Assembly. Juan's bill, promoting sign language instruction in high schools across Kentucky, passed both the House and Senate in December 2024. He participates in Future Health Professionals, Beta Club, National Honor Society, tennis, and the yearbook committee. He has further distinguished himself by earning twenty-one college credit hours and a 4.14 weighted cumulative GPA.

Juan serves as a Baptist Health emergency room volunteer, where he has gained firsthand insight into the fast-paced environment of emergency medicine. This has solidified his desire to pursue a career as a certified registered nurse anesthetist. He plans to earn a nursing degree at the University of Louisville before advancing to a nurse anesthesia graduate program. Juan's bilingual skills, commitment to patient care, and dedication to excellence will be instrumental in helping him make a significant impact on the future of healthcare.



# 2025 Graduates



**Lugain Abdelrahman**  
Central High School MCA  
University of Kentucky



**Elijah Benders**  
Shelby County High School  
Eastern Kentucky University



**Amari Bernard**  
duPont Manual High School  
University of Louisville



**Quincy Blakely**  
W.E.B. DuBois Academy  
Kentucky State University



**Rodney Brown, Jr.**  
Central High School MCA  
University of Louisville



**Destiny Cardell**  
duPont Manual High School  
University of Kentucky



**Louis Chavez Mora**  
W.E.B. DuBois Academy  
Bellarmine University



**Jada Cochran**  
Louisville Male High School  
Jefferson Community and  
Technical College



**Keegan Coomer**  
duPont Manual High School  
University of Louisville



**Alex Crisostomo Jiguan**  
Marion C. Moore School  
University of Louisville



**Alicia Estrada**  
Fairdale High School  
Bellarmine University



**Carlos Figueredo Zamora**  
Ballard High School  
University of Louisville



**Tariya Gartin**  
Butler Traditional High School  
University of Kentucky



**Tatiana Hamilton**  
Pathfinder School of  
Innovation  
University of the Cumberland



**Juan Hernandez Trejo**  
Butler Traditional High School  
University of Louisville



**Malachi Ibn-Mohammed**  
Atherton High School  
University of Kentucky



# 2025 Graduates



**Zyon Logsdon**  
Central High School MCA  
University of Louisville



**Marcellous Malone**  
duPont Manual High School  
University of Louisville



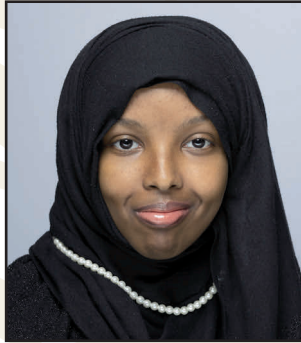
**Rayna Mandadi**  
duPont Manual High School  
University of Cincinnati



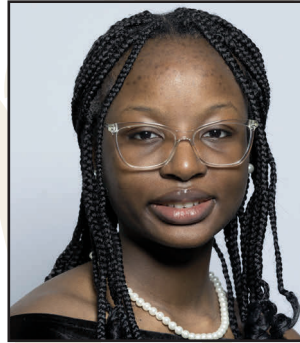
**Buddha Mangar**  
Seneca High School  
University of Kentucky



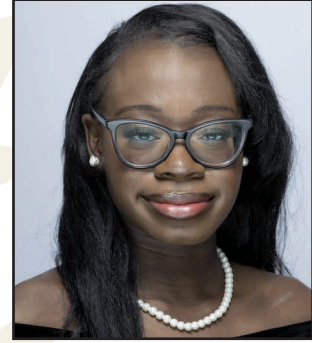
**Cordaisha Milan**  
Pleasure Ridge Park  
High School  
University of Louisville



**Farah Mohamud**  
Louisville Male High School  
Bellarmine University



**Joy Olaolorun**  
Ballard High School  
University of Maryland,  
Baltimore County



**Yewande Olusesan-Adu**  
duPont Manual High School  
University of Kentucky



**Ingram Quick, II**  
duPont Manual High School  
University of Louisville



**Neriah Rogers**  
duPont Manual High School  
Bellarmine University



**Kyla Sisson**  
Butler Traditional High School  
Bellarmine University



**Ramiyah Sutton**  
Butler Traditional High School  
Bellarmine University



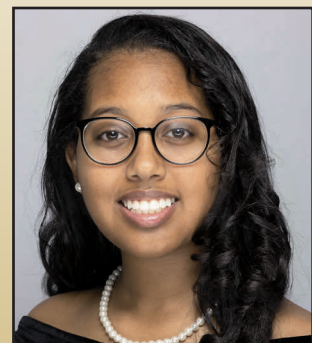
**Aaron Walker**  
Louisville Male High School  
University of Louisville



**Glen Williams, III**  
Louisville Male High School  
Western Kentucky University



**Victoria Wimberly**  
Eastern High School  
Hampton University



**Hermela Zewde**  
duPont Manual High School  
Bellarmine University

# STERLING THOMPSON COMPANY

INSURANCE SINCE 1937

**Congratulations to the 2025  
Whitney M. Young Scholars!**



**Proudly providing  
Lincoln Foundation with Employee  
Benefits for 15 years and counting.**

Business | Personal | Employee Benefits |  
Farm and Equine | Real Estate | Life and Health

502.585.3277    [sterlingthompson.com](http://sterlingthompson.com)



**Scholars Attend 34 Different  
JCPS Schools**

**Scholars Live in 32 Different  
Zip Codes**

**100% High School  
Graduation Rate**

**84% Are  
First-Generation to  
Attend College**

**92% Enter College  
Immediately After  
High School**

**91% of Freshmen Return  
to a College for Year Two,  
Compared to a State  
Target of 75%**

**93% of Sophomores  
Return to Their Original  
College, Compared to  
77% State Target**



**WHITNEY M. YOUNG  
LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE**

# WHITNEY M. YOUNG SCHOLARS *Degrees Earned*



Benedict College



The College of Saint Rose

Columbia COLLEGE CHICAGO



GEORGETOWN COLLEGE

GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY

HAMPTON UNIVERSITY



MARIAN UNIVERSITY Indianapolis





MISSISSIPPI STATE  
UNIVERSITY



University of the  
Cumberlands





*Congratulations Class of 2025!*

PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE  
WHITNEY M. YOUNG SCHOLARS PROGRAM

**WYATT**

# Congratulations Scholars!



**Our mission is collaborating with our clients  
to create a better future, for them, for their  
people and for our community.**

## **CREATE A BETTER FUTURE.**

[www.dmllo.com](http://www.dmllo.com)



# THE WHITNEY M. YOUNG *Leadership Initiative*

Whitney M. Young Leadership Initiative empowers underrepresented youth in Louisville by fostering college readiness and college success. Our mission is to dismantle barriers to higher education through academic excellence, personal growth, and resilience. We equip scholars to overcome social and economic disadvantages and achieve academically leading to a successful transition into college and embarking on a career. We develop first-generation college graduates for the benefit of the students, their families, and our community.

The Whitney M. Young Leadership Initiative consists of three programs:

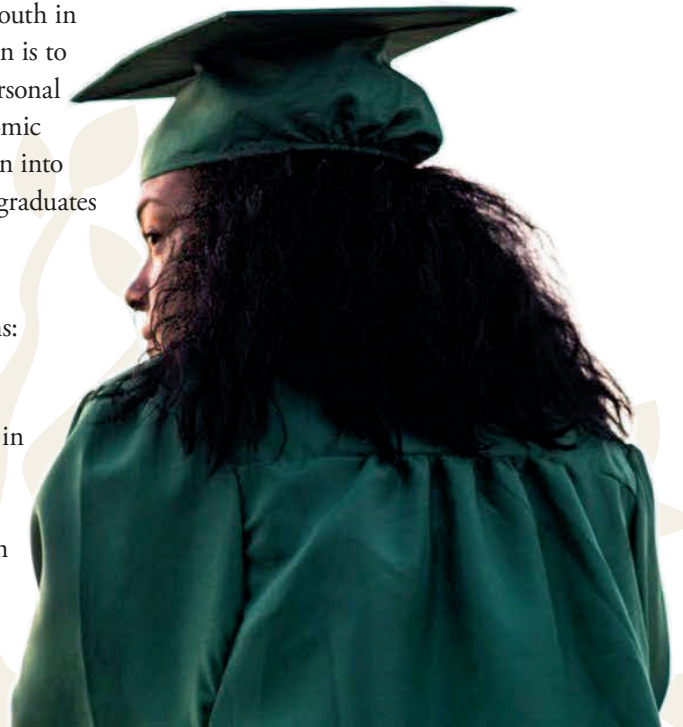
**The Whitney M. Young Scholars Program (WYSP)** provides support from 8th grade to high school graduation. Students participate in Saturday morning outside-of-school sessions that include academic support, guidance, and rigorous college preparatory curricula. The scholars' parents or guardians attend monthly Parental Institutes to gain the resources and knowledge needed to better support their students in the college selection process.

**The College Transition Enrichment Program (CTEP)** provides continued support as students transition from high school to college. The program provides guidance, mentoring, and other support services throughout the college experience. Services include course scheduling, financial aid, tutoring, housing support, and mental wellbeing. The college transition coaches engage with students through campus visits and virtual encounters. Students' progress toward earning a degree is monitored for six years.

**The Future Leaders Internship Program (FLIP)** is our new initiative to provide college juniors and seniors with unique internship opportunities at local and national corporations to help launch their careers and retain valuable young talent in our community.

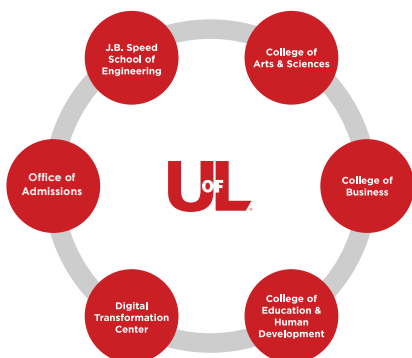
**The Whitney M. Young Leadership Initiative has a proven track record:**

- 3.25 average GPA for high school Class of 2024
- 100% annual high school graduation
- \$15 million in total scholarship awards in 2023 & 2024
- \$242,000 average scholarship award per scholar since 2023
- 175+ scholars currently enrolled at accredited colleges or universities





# EDUCATIONAL & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT *Partnerships*



The Cornelia Bonnie Family Foundation  
The Ginkgo Fund  
The Mary E. Yarbrough Fund

**Chair:** Gwendolyn M. Young, Attorney, Retired  
**Vice Chair:** Brenda G. Hart, J. B. Speed School of Engineering, Retired  
**Treasurer:** Christine Koenig, DMLO CPAs  
**Secretary:** R. Joe Stennis, Jr., Wyatt Tarrant & Combs, LLC

Alicia C. Awkard – Yum! Brands Inc.  
Marshall Bradley, Jr. – Lincoln Foundation  
Genelle Farley Cochran – GE Appliances  
Louis DeFreeze, III – Norton Healthcare  
Herman DuBose, Jr. – Whitney M. Young Family Representative  
Danielle Braxton Graham – Brown-Forman  
Dr. Georgia L. Hampton – Jefferson County Public Schools, Retired  
Sara Holland – NKopernicus  
Derrick Littlejohn – PNC Bank  
Vivian Warren Overall – Lincoln Institute & Berea College Alumna  
Jenny Sawyer – University of Louisville  
Stephanie Hawkins Smith – Unistar Purchasing Solutions  
Michelle Stigall – PPL Services Corporation  
Dr. Samuel Robinson (President Emeritus) – Lincoln Foundation  
Gary W. Brown (Emeritus) – IBM, Retired  
John A. Johnson (Emeritus) – Attorney, Retired

## *Our Mission*

---

To provide educational enrichment programs that develop and support youth in overcoming social and economic barriers to achievement.



Park National Bank is not affiliated in any way with Park Community Credit Union.

MEMBER  
FDIC

# *Louisville* Proud to serve you!

From big cities to small towns, we are proud to serve you.  
Lending a hand to a neighbor and investing in the people and  
places around us is the right thing to do.



**18,037**

VOLUNTEER HOURS



**\$4,985,412**

DONATIONS



# *Whitney M. Young Scholars Program*

## *Scholar Oath*

I can  
I must  
I will be somebody  
For all that I do  
Spirit tried and true  
Only the best of me  
Will come shining through  
Not my mother  
Not my father  
Nor my enemies who try to stray me  
But by my own undying heart  
Which beats on ever steady  
It is with this pledge  
I set my life  
And with it I vow to be  
A winner first  
A winner last  
For everyone to see