

**SOLIVITA AFRICAN HERITAGE  
CULTURAL CLUB  
EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC.**

**CELEBRATES**



**SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

via VIRTUAL WEBCAST

**THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020**

**NOON**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings,

It is my honor to present this year's theme-"**15 Years of Excellence**", highlighting our 15th Anniversary of scholarship-giving. For 15 years, our organization has been a great source of support for youth in our community.

This year, 10 Scholarships will be awarded, along with 17 Book Awards. We are proud of the accomplishments of our recipients. The excellence shown in completing their high school years is a testimony to their willingness to persevere and conquer life's increasingly difficult challenges.

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, we are unable to conduct our Annual Scholarship Luncheon. However, true to our heritage, we will not be deterred in our quest to honor these outstanding student representatives of our community. Therefore, our Scholarship Program will be a virtual webcast presentation, using 21st century technology, on May 14th, 2020 at noon. More details will be forthcoming.

**To our sponsors:** Thank each of you for your commitment to our youth by donating full scholarships to 6 students.

**To our Scholarship and Book Award recipients:** Just remember "no one rises to low expectations". Please know we have high expectations for your success.

**To all High School Officials at Haines City HS, Liberty HS, New Dimensions HS and Poinciana HS:** Thank you for distributing and collecting the scholarship applications.

**To our supporters and members of the Solivita Community and elsewhere:** Thank you for your donations and encouragement.

**To the Board of Directors:** You are the backbone of this organization. Your support is unyielding and very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Lois Duncan*

Dr. Lois Duncan  
President



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## SOLIVITA AFRICAN HERITAGE CULTURAL CLUB EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC. (FIFTEEN YEAR HISTORY)

The Solivita African Heritage Cultural Club Educational Fund, Inc. (SAHCCEFI) began as an African Heritage Cultural Club (AHCC) Committee in 2006 and evolved into an independent and state approved non-profit tax-exempt organization in 2008. SAHCCEFI'S mission has been to promote, advocate, educate and implement programs affecting persons of African descent. Since its beginning in 2006, SAHCCEFI's primary focus has been on providing local high school graduates with college scholarships to help them obtain a transformational education. Toward that end and as of the Spring 2020, the Club has mobilized our community to raise more than \$159,000 to help 46 of our brightest students not just to attend college, but thrive, graduate and become leaders. That assistance has included an initial \$2,000 scholarship and three (3) subsequent \$500 Book Awards per student, totaling \$3,500 per student. Each student was also assigned a Mentor, to provide him or her with guidance and counsel during the college experience. In addition to the financial aid and mentoring support, SAHCCEFI has managed to provide mini grants to an adopted local elementary school and cultural enrichment programs for the community.

Ronald Hill  
Historian



**SOLIVITA AFRICAN HERITAGE  
CULTURAL CLUB  
EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC.  
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**William Snyder**  
**Pamela Sykes (Secretary)**  
**Gabrielle Thomas**  
**Alice Womack**

**SALUTE TO  
FIFTEEN YEARS OF GIVING**

We express our sincere gratitude to those listed below. They have demonstrated their commitment to helping students achieve dreams of a college education through the power of their generosity. We thank them for their donations in each of our fifteen (15) years.

**Saundra (Pat) Davenport**  
**Donald & Lois Duncan**  
**George and Judy Dunham**  
**Dr. Marilyn Gaston**  
**Charles & Bessie Goode**  
**Lelia Jarrell Harris**  
**Lynwood Harris**  
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**Dr. Gayle Porter**  
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**Levan Watson**  
**Maureen Williams**  
**Ron Woodson**

## MENTORS

Mentoring is the process by which an experienced person provides advice, support and encouragement to a less experienced individual. A mentor is a teacher or advisor who leads through guidance and example.

We offer our special thanks to the Mentors listed below. They volunteered their time, shared their experiences and were supportive in working with our scholarship recipients.

Dr. Gail Bell-Baptiste	Sharon McLeod
Lynda Gault Coleman	Carolyn McGlotten
Yolanda Cornell	Alice Morgan
Dr. Ruben Cowart	Dr. Charles Noble
Dr. Marilyn Gaston	Cheryl Parker
Dr. Allison Gibbons	Dr. Gayle Porter
Charley Gillispie	Ed Smith
Dr. Del Gillispie	William Snyder
Ronald Hill	Marcia Storey
Myron Hughes	Dr. Mark Suran
Clarence Jones	Pamela Sykes
Jacqueline Jones	Gabrielle Thomas
Ben Kizer	Carrie Vance
Myron Lofton	Joseph Williams
Yvonne Loney	Alice Womack

## AFRICAN HERITAGE CULTURAL CLUB (AHCC) SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

In January 2005, at the first meeting of the newly formed African Heritage Cultural Club participants were asked to generate future goals for the organization. Establishing a Scholarship program for local High School students was introduced then as a future goal. The following year a scholarship committee selected the first recipient. AHCC, members, friends and Solivita residents have continued to support the concept of "giving and reaching back." This year the AHCC is funding one full scholarship.

### William David Wilson



### Recipient



## KATHY WHEELER EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



My husband Mel and I moved to Solivita in 2003. It was the best decision I have made in my life. We were so very lucky to meet and become friends with Bill and TT Conde. They introduced us to the African Heritage Cultural Club and we were members for several years. My 25 years of Public Health nursing experience guided me toward the idea that prevention was better than problem solving after the fact. I believe the best way to solve social and economical problems at large is to have a system to help youth grow and develop their leadership skills. It is such a pleasure to be a part of the SAHCCEFI scholarship program and if, because of my efforts, one or more young people can achieve their life goal of a higher education then my goal will also have been reached. I am grateful for the endless efforts of the SAHCCEFI scholarship committee in promoting, selecting, guiding and mentoring the recipients as they move forward towards their educational future. Since 2008, Mel and I have continued to support the scholarship fund on a yearly basis and now this scholarship will be a definite part of a lifelong project to help our young people reach their goals.

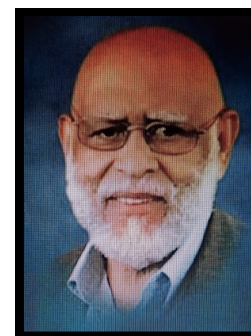
**Doneel Thomas**



**Recipient**

## HENRY F. CARTER, JR. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

**Brother of Dr. Sharon Thomas, Mary Shankle  
& Jerry Carter**



**Funded by the Yancy Family**

**Eboni Matthias**



**Recipient**

## MARILYN PEALS O'HARA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



Marilyn Ruth Peals-O'Hara was a wonderful blend of joy and laughter and seriousness and overwhelming generosity to others and herself. She was smart and loved to read but she could garden all morning, play cards all afternoon, dance all night and nap anytime! Marilyn was confident and competent in her personal and professional life but she was never arrogant or dismissive of the input of others. Her professional life reflected her personal values and character. Marilyn was a social worker and her work ethic and behaviors manifested her belief that God has put us on this earth to take care of ourselves and others. She became an administrator in the Illinois Department of Human Services and her colleagues, staff and clients respected and loved her for her fairness, clarity, support, integrity and sense of humor. Marilyn was a loving, thoughtful and kind daughter, wife, sister, mother, grandmother and friend. She had this incredible ability to develop lifelong friendships wherever she lived and to become actively involved in organizations i.e., the National Association of University Women; Solivita African Heritage Cultural Club Educational Fund, Inc. (SAHCCEFI); and Master Gardner Program which promoted the wellbeing of children, families and the environment. Marilyn was extremely proud and grateful that she had secured funding from Walmart to provide scholarships to students selected by SAHCCEFI. She is and will be sorely missed.

### McKayla Getfield



**Recipient**

### CONTRIBUTORS

Jerry & Rosann Carter  
Donald & Lois Duncan  
Mary Gorham  
Myron & Elaine Hughes  
Nancy Licata  
James O'Hara  
David & Ruth Patrick  
Larry & Cheryl Roantree  
Kenneth & Virginia Sampson  
Jessica Sullivan

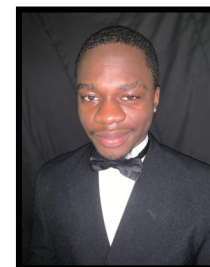
## MELVIN E. WHEELER ADVANCING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



As a public school teacher of 33 years, I have seen the value of post secondary education in all its many content areas. I was gifted with parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents with high school educations that loved to read, learn and travel. They were the foundation upon which many other wonderful people, including too many teachers to list, laid the bricks of

knowledge and skills that formed my stairway to my own career, which was more of a calling. A sturdy foundation, excellent building materials and a personal desire to continue climbing up the staircase of lifelong learning sometimes needs a little financial help. Consider this scholarship a bit of mortar to help keep the building materials together. Over the 16 years I have lived in Solivita I have seen the excellent products produced with the help of the SAHCCEFI Scholarship program. My first contribution was in 2008 and early on I served as a board member. I firmly feel this effort, done by so many caring and forward thinking people, provides a great start to enhance the lives of each recipient and all those that they, in turn, influence during their own lives. Go forward and be a positive element in our future.

### Crishaw Gayle



**Recipient**

## JOHN & CHERYL STEVENS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



We recognized the value of higher education early in our careers and we both obtained that education with financial aid and scholarships. Because of this, when Dr. Lois Duncan created the Solivita African Heritage Cultural Club Educational Fund, Inc. 15 years ago, we were more than encouraged to support her efforts to secure donors for Scholarships for

the youths in the surrounding community. Through Dr. Duncan's dedication and commitment, many students have been able to achieve a college education. Last year we looked back on Dr. Duncan's continuing efforts to provide scholarships to deserving students and realized that we had not been doing enough to support this worthwhile endeavor. We also recognized the growing needs of the surrounding community. Thus, this year we decided to provide funding for a full scholarship in order to give one additional deserving student the type of financial assistance we had received. Hopefully, this opportunity will enable that additional student to pursue a higher education and achieve career goals leading to a brighter future.

**Tiffanie Crumbie**



**Recipient**

## \$500 Book Award Recipients 2020



**Natasha Goodall** Mentor: Dr. Gayle Porter  
Haines High School Graduate 2018  
Completed Sophomore year @ Polk State - Speech Path./Audiology



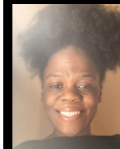
**Jah'Leeka Callwood** Mentor: Yvonne Loney  
Liberty High School Graduate 2019  
Completed Freshman year @ Valencia College - Pediatrician



**Amiya Clarke \*** Mentor: Lynda Gault Coleman  
Haines City High School Graduate 2019  
Completing Freshman year @ Valencia College - Registered Nurse



**Julia Delmas** Mentor: Jacqueline Jones  
Haines City High School Graduate 2019  
Completed Freshman Year @ UCF - Neurologist



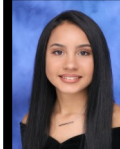
**Mitdline Joseph** Mentor: Dr. Allison Gibbons  
Haines City High School Graduate 2019  
Completed Freshman Year @ Polk State College- Pediatrician



**Marky Noel** Mentor: Dr. Charles Noble  
Poinciana High School Graduate 2019  
Completing Freshman Year @ UCF - Nurse Practitioner



**Akeila Reid** Mentor: Yolanda Cornell  
Poinciana High School Graduate 2019  
Completed Freshman Year @ FL State Univ,- Software Engineer



**Kay Rodriguez** Mentor: Dr. Gail Bell-Baptiste  
Poinciana High School Graduate 2019  
Completed Freshman @ FL Int'l Univ.- Cosmetic Dermatologist

\* 2019 Barbara Sibblis Memorial Scholarship



## \$500 BOOK AWARD RECIPIENTS 2020

	<b>Zoe Baker</b> Mentor: Dr. Del Gillispie Poinciana High School - Graduate 2017 Completed Jr. yr. @Florida A&M-Pre-Law
	<b>Ariyon Dailey</b> Mentor: Jacqueline Jones Haynes City High School - Graduate 2017 Completed Jr. yr. @Florida A&M-Broadcasting Journalism
	<b>Arthur Ephraim, Jr.</b> Mentor: Joseph Williams Haynes City High School - Graduate 2017 Completed Jr. yr. @Oakwood University (AL)-Pre-Med
	<b>Kworweinski Lafontant</b> Mentor: Ben Kizer New Dimensions High School - Graduate 2017 Completed Jr. yr. @ Hope College (MI)-Exercise Science
	<b>Vanessa Nevy</b> Mentor: Alice Womack Liberty High School - Graduate 2017 Completed Jr. yr. @ Univ. of Florida-International Affairs
	<b>Shinelle Saunders</b> Mentor: Pamela Sykes Poinciana High School - Graduate 2017 Completed Jr. yr. @Florida State University-Finance
	<b>Maiah Baker</b> Mentor: Carrie Vance Poinciana High School - Graduate 2018 Completed Sophomore @Florida State-Biological Sciences
	<b>Chelsea Fleuridor</b> Mentor: Dr. Marilyn Gaston Liberty High School - Graduate 2018 Completed Sophomore @ University of Miami-Pre. Med
	<b>Nia Getfield</b> Mentor: Marcia Storey Haines City High School - Graduate 2018 Completed Soph. @ FL State-Communications & Media

## \$2,000 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS 2020

	<b>Tiffanie Crumble</b> Mentor: Alece Morgan Daughter of Lisa Clarke Liberty High School: GPA 4.29 To attend the University of Central Florida Goal: Mechanical Engineer
	<b>Siul De La Paz</b> Mentor: Dr. Mark Suran Son of Luis and Julayka De La Paz New Dimensions High School: GPA 4.05 To attend University of Central Florida Goal: Neurosurgeon
	<b>Crishawn Gayle</b> Mentor: Ed Smith Son of Tasha Harris Haines City High School: GPA 3.66 To attend Embry Riddle Aeronautical Univ. Goal: Meteorologist
	<b>McKayla Getfield</b> Mentor: Cheryl Parker Daughter of Desmond & Stacy Getfield Haines City High School: GPA 4.05 To attend University of Tampa. Goal: Journalist or Actress
	<b>Eboni Matthias</b> Mentor: Sharon McLeod Daughter of Terrell Harris Poinciana High School: GPA 3.69 To attend Bethune Cookman University Goal: Choreographer

## \$2,000 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS 2020

**Aria McDaniel** Mentor: Dr. Marilyn Gaston  
Daughter of Alfonso and Penekope McDaniel  
Haines City High School: GPA 4.35  
To attend the University of Florida  
Goal: Pediatrician



**Miguel Silva, Jr.** Mentor: Ronald Hill  
Son of Miguel and Maria Silva  
New Dimensions High School: GPA 3.98  
To attend the University of Central Florida  
Goal: Physician Assistant or Nurse

**Martyna Smart** Mentor: Carolyn McGlotten  
Daughter of Fredricka Smart  
Poinciana High School: GPA 4.34  
To attend Florida State University  
Goal: Software Engineer



**Doneel Thomas** Mentor: Gabrielle Thomas  
Daughter of Orthneil & Maureen Thomas  
Poinciana High School: GPA 3.79  
To attend Valencia College  
Goal: Registered Nurse

**William Wilson** Mentor: Myron Lofton  
Son of David and Holley Wilson  
Poinciana High School: GPA 3.98  
To attend Florida State University  
Goal: Chemist



## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Introduction.....Dr. Lois Duncan  
Invocation .....Ezekiel Davis  
Welcome.....Deshaun Jennings  
Scholarship Awards.....Jerry Carter  
Book Awards.....Ronald Hill  
Departing Scholars.....Pamela Sykes  
Thanks to SAHCCEFI ..Andrew Grant

### 2020 DEPARTING SCHOLARS



**Ezekiel Davis**

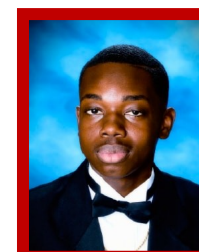
Mentors: William Snyder

Graduating from: Florida State University

**Deshaun Jennings**

Mentors: Clarence Jones; Charley Gillispie

Graduating from: Univ. of Central Florida



**Andrew Grant**

Mentors: Myron Hughes; Dr. Ruben Cowart

Graduating from: Florida A&M University