



Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service

New Orleans (LA) Chapter

Celebrating more than 60 years of service to the community

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For Immediate Release**

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Chapter awards eight scholarships to high school and HBCU scholars

(New Orleans, LA) -- The New Orleans (LA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated awarded eight scholarships to high school and Historically Black College and University (HBCU) scholars on Thursday, May 12. Each scholar received a \$2,500 award.

HBCU Scholarship awardees are:

Yasmin Honorable is a freshman at Dillard University majoring in Nursing. She is a member of the University's Thompson/Samuel DuBois Cook Honors Program and the Leading Ladies Program. Yasmin is actively involved in community service and social justice initiatives. After completing her studies at Dillard University, Yasmin aspires to become a Nurse Practitioner and entrepreneur.

Rachel Rowe is a junior at Dillard University majoring in Public Health. Rachel is a certified caregiver through Addus Healthcare, a certification she acquired this past summer after caring for her grandmother. In addition to being a caregiver, she takes time to participate in community service activities within the New Orleans area. Rachel serves as Captain of the Ladies Track and Field Team at Dillard University, with plans to pursue a degree in Nursing.

Mikayla Weary is a freshman at Dillard University majoring in Visual Arts. She is a Dean's List Scholar, and she and her family own a coffee shop and community space, Black Coffee Northwest, which has won several awards. The City of Shoreline commissioned Mikayla to produce a short film for Juneteenth. In addition, her media work has been featured in *Teen Vouge*. Her passion for digital media has landed her internships with Disney and work with singer/songwriter Lizzo. After completing her studies at Dillard University, Mikayla wants to use her talents to expand the presence and stories of marginalized communities that are absent from film.

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Paulina Webber is a junior at Dillard University majoring in English. She is a Dillard University Presidential Scholarship recipient and a member of the University's Thompson/Samuel DuBois Cook Honors Program, where she serves as Chaplain. Paulina is a member of numerous honor societies including Alpha Chi National Honor Society, Alpha Kappa Mu National Honor Society, and the Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society. In addition to her academic accolades, Paulina currently serves as the National Pre-Alumni Council (NPAC) secretary for the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) and is the UNCF NPAC President-Elect for the 2022-23 academic year. She currently reigns as Dillard's Miss United Negro College Fund (UNCF) where her focus is fundraising for the UNCF scholarship fund. Paulina raised over \$5,000 during her reign and was a finalist for the Miss UNCF National title. After completing her studies, Paulina will attend Duke University School of Law.

The high school honorees were:

Ashton Broden is a graduating senior at St. James High School. He is the President of the Beta Club, Lead Editor for Wildcat Productions, a class representative with student council, and a section leader in both the marching and orchestra bands. Ashton assisted with hurricane relief and serves as the creative director for Divine International Outreach Ministries. He is a CLEP Award Recipient and a six-time winner of the Ace Academic Champion Award. Ashton plans to major in computer science and minor in mass communications.

Gabrielle Alphonse is a graduating senior at Patrick F. Taylor Science and Technology Academy. Gabrielle serves as Treasurer of the Student Government Association Executive Board and President of the National Honor Society. She is also Co-Captain of the Soccer Team and participates in Varsity Track and Field. Gabrielle is the host of a "Teen Talk" podcast where she serves as producer, editor, and outreach manager. Gabrielle served as an Ochsner Medical Center Junior Volunteer with more than 190 hours of service over consecutive summers. Gabrielle plans to attend medical school and aspires to become an orthopedic surgeon.

Jaedon Simmons is a graduating senior at St. Augustine High School. He joined the Marching 100 in 8th grade. Jaedon served as trombone section leader his junior year and earned the honor of Drum Major his senior year. Impressively, Jaedon assisted with repaving damaged pathways for blind and deaf students in Ghana, Africa. He also assisted in feeding the homeless with hand-packed lunch bags, participated in City Park clean-up efforts, and supported Hurricane Ida recovery efforts. Jaedon was Son of a Saint's 2021 Mentee of the Year. He aspires to be an Aerodynamacist in the Formula 1 Racing League where he will ultimately combine his passion for engineering and love for cars.

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Zoe Carter is a graduating senior at Benjamin Franklin High School. She played volleyball and served as both a volleyball and basketball manager during her time at Ben Franklin. Zoe is also a member of the Black Culture Club. She plans to pursue an undergraduate degree in pre-veterinary science and ultimately will attend Veterinary School to become a licensed Veterinarian. She is already demonstrating her passion for animal care through her volunteer efforts with the LASPCA and Animal Rescue New Orleans.

Sunni LeBeouf and Robyn McCormick serve as the Chapter's Scholarship Committee Chairperson and Co-Chairperson.

About the New Orleans Chapter of The Links, Incorporated

Since it was chartered on November 20, 1957, members of The New Orleans (LA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated have engaged in implementing program services through the five National Program Facets: Services to Youth, International Trends and Services, National Trends and Services, Health and Human Services and The Arts. The Chapter's major initiatives include sponsoring the local competition for the Scripps National Spelling Bee; a partnership with Mary McCloud Bethune Elementary School; Obesity Awareness Day; and Law Day, in which Bethune Elementary School students are trained in legal proceedings and participate in a mock trial. The main focus areas are: financial support for college students, education and youth activities to assist youth in fulfilling their intellectual potential; addressing issues affecting the African American community through health and wellness projects; fostering cultural appreciation through the arts; and collaborating with other Link chapters to provide services and assistance to global friends. Tracey Flemings-Davillier is the President of the Chapter. For more information, visit www.neworleanslinks.org and follow the Chapter on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @NewOrleansLinks.

About The Southern Area of The Links, Incorporated

The Southern Area of The Links, Incorporated is comprised of 84 chapters located in seven states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina) and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. For more information, visit www.salinksinc.org.

About The Links, Incorporated

The Links, Incorporated is an international, not-for-profit corporation, established in 1946. The membership consists of nearly 16,000 professional women of color in 299 chapters located in 41 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and the United Kingdom. It is one of the nation's oldest and largest volunteer service organizations of extraordinary women who are committed to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry. Links members contribute more than **1 million** documented hours of community service annually – strengthening their communities and enhancing the nation. The outstanding programming of The Links, Incorporated has five facets which include **Services to Youth, International Trends and Services, National Trends and**

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Services, Health and Human Services, and The Arts. The programs are implemented through strategies such as public information and education, economic development, and public policy campaigns. Visit www.linksinc.org for more information.



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