YEARBOOK

THE PERRY 'SECOND CHANCES' SCHOLARSHIP

tpf THE THURMAN PERRY FOUNDATION



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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



GABRIELLE A. PERRY, MPH

Before The Thurman Perry Foundation ever came into existence in March of 2021, there was The Perry 'Second Chances' Scholarship. I speak of our origin story often, having never intended to start a nonprofit or ever envisioning what The Thurman Perry Foundation would be. In the beginning, my only goal was to seek out women who were like myself, like my birth mother, like my biological sister, like my biological maternal grandmother: four generations of women who had seen the inside of a jail cell and lived to tell extremely different tales, with my own being the only one ending in triumph.

That triumph was due almost entirely to my decision to continue my educational endeavors. My education saved my life after my arrest and gave me direction and purpose. After finishing two STEM undergraduate degrees and completing my Masters of Public Health in epidemiology with a concentration in infectious diseases at Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, I felt two overwhelming feelings: gratitude and guilt. Guilt because of the anomaly of my existence within that world. And I wanted nothing more than to change that.

Thus. I took to social media a year later, in the throes of the pandemic, as I had been recruited into my career immediately out of graduate school, and I launched an appeal to formerly incarcerated women across the country. Women just like me, who were pursuing their education and a second chance at life. I started The Perry 'Second Chances' Scholarship giving money out of my own savings account. From that first year, the Lord has grown that seed of intent ($2,000) to two formerly incarcerated women in Texas and Oregon to $200,000 being awarded to 58 women across the United States. Currently incarcerated, formerly incarcerated, and the daughters of anyone who has ever been incarcerated.

With no staff, no physical location, no major grants, social media remains the primary tool of the organization. Despite the lack of these necessary resources, the years have found me no longer alone in the mission of the organization. I run this foundation with the help of my indispensable best friend and Executive Board Chair, TC Headley. Everyone from current NBA Celtics player Jrue Holiday and his wife, US Women's Soccer Gold Medalist Lauren Holiday, to Beyonce Knowles' Carter's BeyGOOD Foundation, to legendary music producer Nile Rodgers, and music artist Jatavia “JT” Johnson have lent their image and personal support to offer visibility to the organization. We have been featured everywhere from CBS Morning News with Gayle King to The Washington Post to New York Magazine, TPF is on a quest to humanize, dignify, and prioritize women and girls impacted by mass incarceration and offer second chances to those who are considered the least of us in society.

On November 15, 2025, the anniversary of my father's death for whom our organization is named, our 6th cycle of The Perry 'Second Chances' Scholarship began, and we accepted applications from hundreds of women across the U.S. This year, the cycle saw us award our largest individual scholarships of $10,000 to five women. With a generous grant of $40,000 from The Sunshine Lady Foundation in memory of the late Ms. Doris Buffett, the sister of Mr. Warren Buffett (the first of a multi-year grant agreement between our two organizations), and an additional $10,000 from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous but was glad to heed our call to support women & girls impacted by incarceration, we crossed $200,000 given. Our goal is to eventually work up to $25,000 full tuition scholarships.

It's my prayer that as you look through this yearbook and see the faces and stories of the women and girls we have helped through the years--engineers, cosmetologists, epidemiologists, videographers, nurses, theologists, addiction specialists, future lawyers, future physicians, future astronauts, computer scientists, and more--you see the impact of your giving and are inspired to support us through our mission to 2030. Though we are small, we are mighty. And we need you to continue giving second chances to women and girls everywhere.



Gabrielle A. Perry, Founder & Executive Director

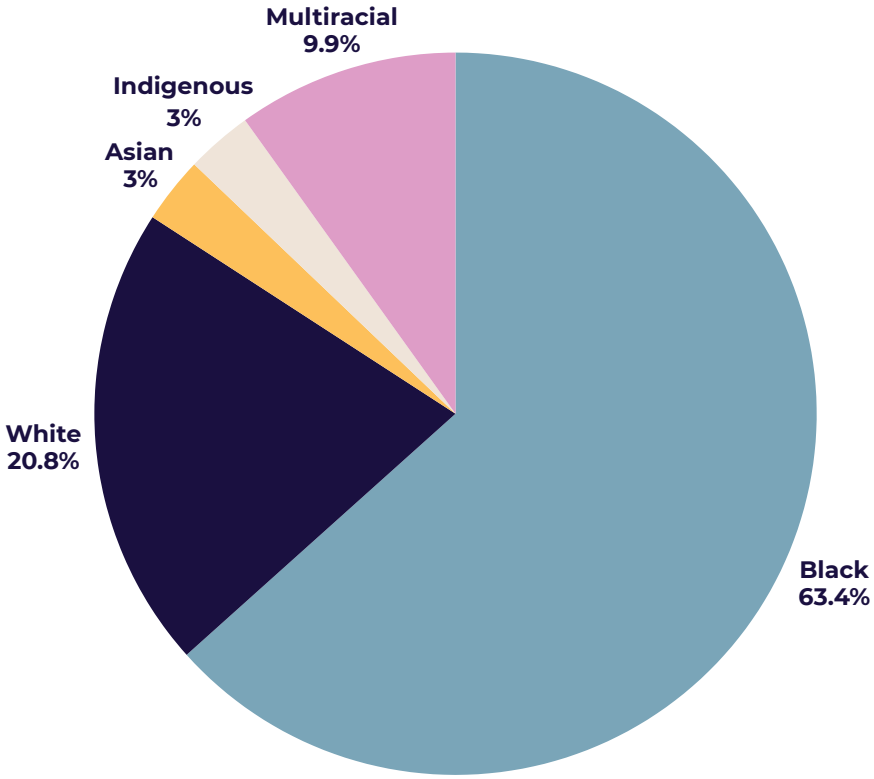
The Winners of The Perry 'Second Chances' Scholarship reflect a diverse group of women and girls from all walks of life with two commonalities: being impacted by the American carceral system and striving to better themselves, their families, and their communities through the pursuit of higher education.

9-64

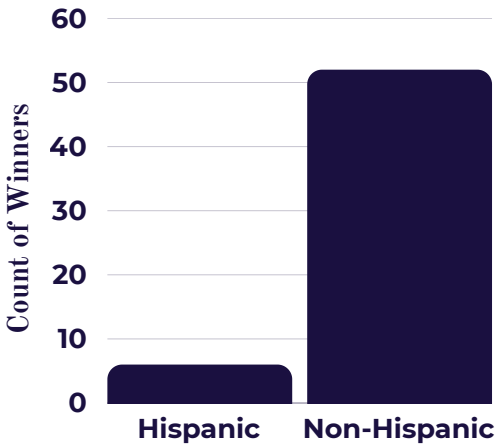
Age Range

28

Average Age



Racial Identification



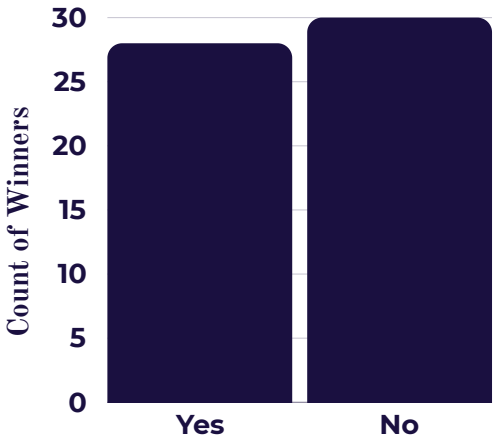
Ethnicity



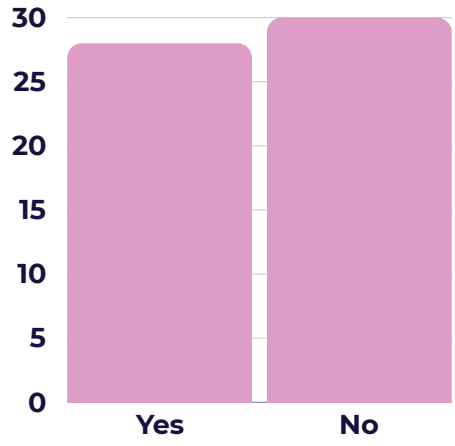
Gender Identity



US Citizenship



First Generation in College

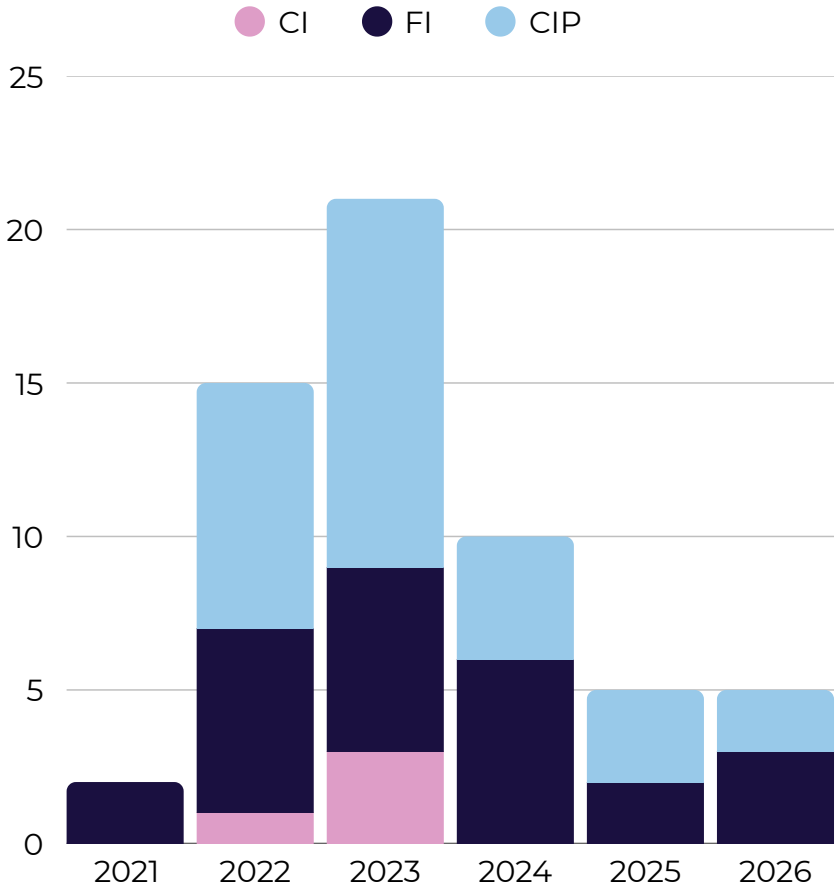


Charged with a Felony



Military Member

Impact of Incarceration by Scholarship Recipient (Year Over Year)



CI = Currently Incarcerated
FI = Formerly Incarcerated
CIP = Child of Incarcerated Parent



HBCU Attendee



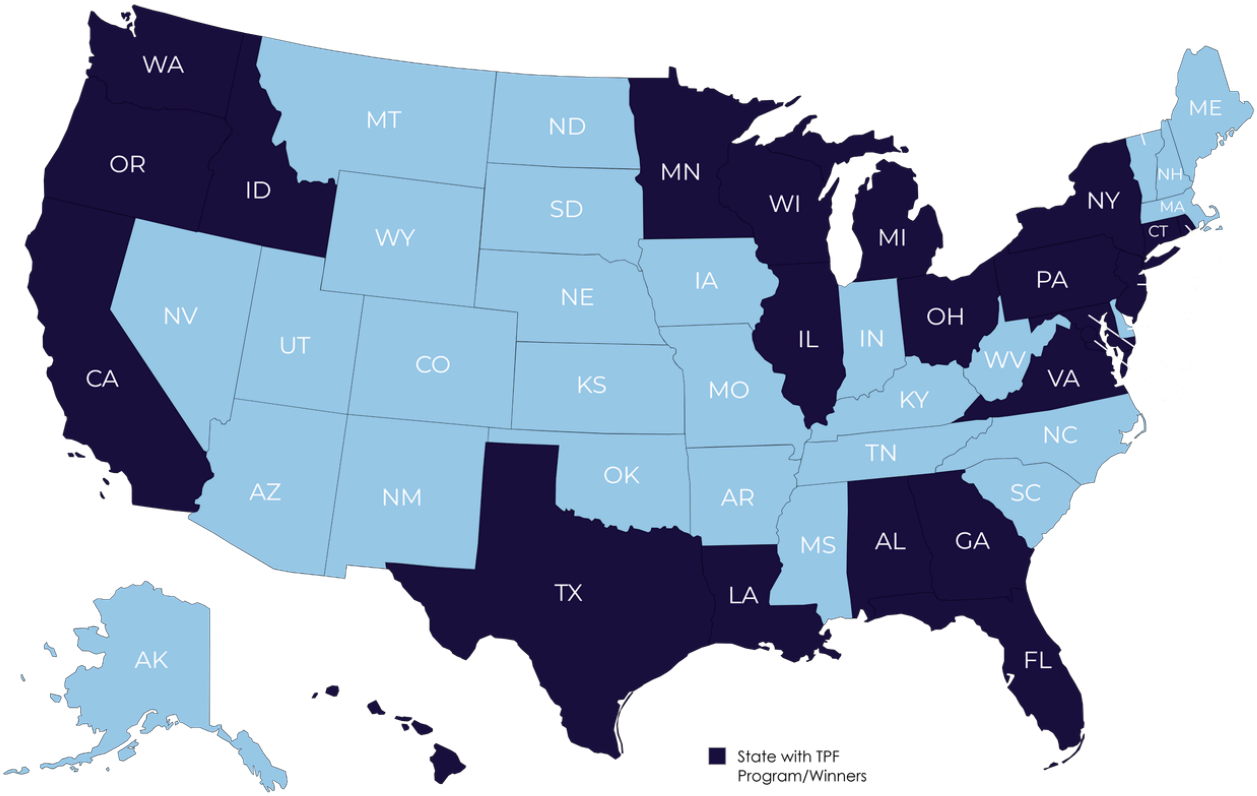
Identify as LGBTQ+



Louisiana Resident



Immigrant or First Gen American



States with PSCS Winners:

Alabama	Illinois	Ohio
California	Louisiana	Oregon
Connecticut	Maryland	Pennsylvania
Florida	Michigan	Texas
Georgia	Minnesota	Virginia
Hawaii	New Jersey	Washington
Idaho	New York	Washington DC
		Wisconsin

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CLASS OF 2021



2021

The Inaugural Year

The Perry ‘Second Chances’ Scholarship, the flagship program of The Thurman Perry Foundation, existed before the formation of the organization. Future TPF Executive Director Gabrielle Perry contacted future TPF Executive Board Chair TC Headley, who built the scholarship website to facilitate the award, with $2,000 raised from her own funds. 2021 saw the inaugural class of the scholarship with two formerly incarcerated women chosen as the first winners.



THE PERRY SECOND CHANCES SCHOLARSHIP

CLASS OF 2021



Iriel F.

Major: Cosmetology

Future Goal:
Become a licensed cosmetologist with plans of starting my own natural hair care line for women of color.



Shavonn F.

Major: Criminology

Future Goal:
To work in administration at the county or state level in an agency such as corrections, mental health, or drug and alcohol rehabilitation.

CLASS OF 2022



2022:

More Funding, More Winners

In its second year, the fledgling foundation raised $15,000 for the 2022 cycle of the scholarship. This was a 750% increase over the previous year's funding, which allowed for a large expansion of the program's ability to grant awards. 15 winners from around the United States were chosen for this class. This year also saw our first currently incarcerated winner, who was pursuing her degree in theology to help other women facing domestic violence like herself. Her daughter, also a winner of the cycle, later went on to join the TPF executive board after graduating.



THE PERRY SECOND CHANCES SCHOLARSHIP

CLASS OF 2022



Laila B.

Major: Psychology

Future Goal:
To be a criminal profiler in the FBI for the BAU (Behavioral Analysis Unit) and run a nonprofit for Children of Incarcerated parents (CIPs).



Zaria D.

Degree: Master of Divinity

Future Goal:
To follow my calling by developing healing circles for people impacted by the criminal legal system and encouraging other leaders and advocates.



Zandra E.

Major: Sociology

Future Goal:
To serve the marginalized & underserved populations, including those with substance abuse issues, the homeless, ex-offenders, and those impacted by the Criminal Justice System.

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THE PERRY SECOND CHANCES SCHOLARSHIP

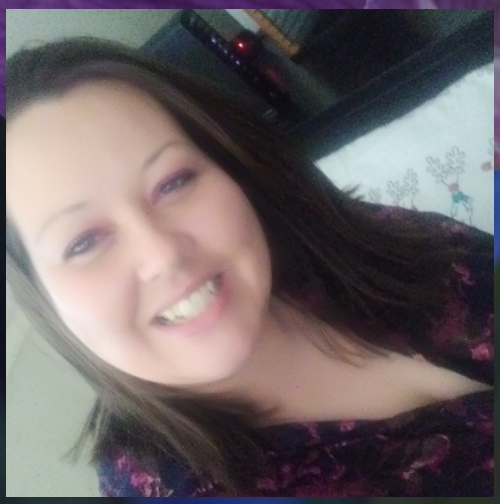
CLASS OF 2022



Althea G.

Major: Cinema

Future Goal:
To be a professional video editor, film editor, or an onsite video editor at a tech company.



Erin H.

Major: Business

Future Goal:
To work in non profit as an advocate for human trafficking victims and use my past life circumstances of being a survivor to help those that are hurting and need support.



Arieanna H.

Major: Biology

Future Goal:
To get my degree and become a Pediatric Surgeon.

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THE PERRY SECOND CHANCES SCHOLARSHIP

CLASS OF 2022



Maria M.

Major: Computer Science

Future Goal:
To expand the internship program I am currently working on to provide more opportunities to formerly incarcerated students majoring in computer science.



Briana M.

Major: Computer Science

Future Goal:
To become a Software Engineer and then a Video Game Developer. I hope to create outreach and youth development programs around my community.



Nailah S.

Major: English

Future Goal:
To become a successful writer and teacher so that I can educate, influence, transform, and inspire youth who face adversity through my personal experiences.

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THE PERRY SECOND CHANCES SCHOLARSHIP

CLASS OF 2022



Tamika S.

Major: Theology

Future Goal:
To use my life experiences and education to advocate for survivors of domestic violence and their extended families.



Modena S.

Major: Community Psychology

Future Goal:
To establish a consulting LLC to provide meaningful organizational capacity building and make a contribution to Community Psychology.



Amaya T.

Major: Biology

Future Goal:
To open my own OB/GYN practice in lower-income areas focusing on the DC metropolitan area to help reduce the Black maternal mortality rate.

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THE PERRY SECOND CHANCES SCHOLARSHIP

CLASS OF 2022



Bria T.

Major: Film & TV Production

Future Goal:
To direct, be a production designer, and write.



Haleigh T.

Major: Nursing

Future Goal:
To graduate with my BSN and become a NICU nurse.



Angelica V.

Major: Clinical Social Work

Future Goal:
To improve child protective services systems and eventually open my own agency that will empower and encourage children to be their better selves and secure them a future in life.

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CLASS OF 2023



2023:

The Largest Class

With an extremely generous multiyear donation from an anonymous donor through The Foundation for Louisiana, TPF was able to increase the number of winners and the amount of the award for the 2023 cycle of the scholarship. Awards doubled from $1,000 to $2,000, and we had the largest cohort of winners in program history. We awarded a total of $42,000 to 21 winners. This unique class contained 3 currently incarcerated winners and our first winner who identifies as a transgendered woman.



THE PERRY SECOND CHANCES SCHOLARSHIP

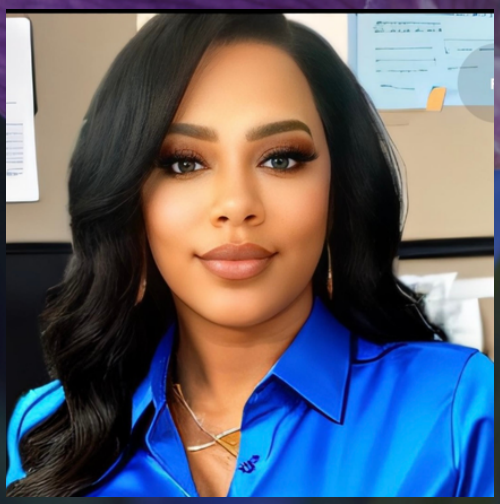
CLASS OF 2023



Maralina A.

Major: Business

Future Goal:
To obtain my PMP (Project Management Professional) Certification and to acquire a certification in Sales Engineering.



Chaundra A.

Major: Health Science

Future Goal:
To be a research scientist and one day play an integral role in finding the root cause and cure for Alzheimers, the disease my grandmother passed away from.



Chandra A.

Major: Fashion Design

Future Goal:
To study fashion abroad in Milan then open a nonprofit education center to teach fashion and sustainable business practices in inner city enterprising communities.

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THE PERRY SECOND CHANCES SCHOLARSHIP

CLASS OF 2023



Olyvya B.

Major: Pre-Law

Future Goal:
To go into civil liberties law and work with or for the ACLU as a civil defense attorney. My ideal focus is to work towards racial justice and equality.



Angel C.

Major: Theology



Karly D.

Major: Dance

Future Goal:
To become an international dancer and travel the world performing.

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THE PERRY SECOND CHANCES SCHOLARSHIP

CLASS OF 2023



Galliele D.

Major: Political Science

Future Goal:
To be employed in the legal sector or pursue a career in social work.



Kyla D.

Major: International Relations

Future Goal:
To become a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and combine development, foreign, & economic policy to overcome pressing global challenges.



Nevaeh F.

Major: Marketing

Future Goal:
To work in technology using my marketing degree and even touch PR while starting a nonprofit to help homeless people and essentially women.

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THE PERRY SECOND CHANCES SCHOLARSHIP

CLASS OF 2023



Shaina H.

Major: Nursing

Future Goal:
To work as a labor and delivery nurse in pediatrics and help bring new life into the world.



Troynyah H.

Major: Nursing

Future Goal:
To become a Pediatric Nurse and a travel nurse as well. I eventually want to open my own practice for incoming high schoolers who want to major in nursing or practice nursing to prepare.



Charlea H.

Major: Social Work

Future Goal:
To pursue a career in social work

THE PERRY SECOND CHANCES SCHOLARSHIP

CLASS OF 2023



Brittany L.

Major: Law & Public Policy

Future Goal:
To establish a career through law and public policy to re-humanize individuals who are currently incarcerated and restore humanity within the prison walls



Christina L.

Major: Theology

Future Goal:
To use my education and training in the arena of criminal justice reform and work closely with organizations that are community centered to promote a vision that sees restoration as the ultimate aim of the criminal justice system.



Brittany M.

Major: Arts & Social Sciences

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THE PERRY SECOND CHANCES SCHOLARSHIP

CLASS OF 2023



Armani M.

Major: Pre-Vet Science

Future Goal:
To become a veterinarian and increase the percentage of Black veterinarians in the US.



Layla M.

Major: Political Science

Future Goal:
To be a civil rights attorney and open my own law firm.



Cheryl N.

Major: Culinary Arts

Future Goal:
To be an entrepreneur and own my own businesses, open up a restaurant, and publish several books.

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THE PERRY SECOND CHANCES SCHOLARSHIP

CLASS OF 2023



Cherita R.

Major: Education

Future Goal:
To start my own organization or practice working with the youth and preparing them to be adults by giving them the tools and the guidance they need to make healthy and good decisions.



Jenisha S.

Major: Epidemiology

Future Goal:
To focus on global health and STIs/STDs and contribute to research that implements interventions and policies addressing public health inequities in sexual & reproductive health rights.



Tyliah W.

Major: Psychology

Future Goal:
To become a licensed psychologist and help those who feel misunderstood.

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CLASS OF 2024



2024:

The Biggest Award (Yet)

Continuing our success from 2023, the foundation wanted to make a bigger and more impactful difference in the lives of our winners. We understand the great financial burden our applicants face while pursuing their education. With that in mind, we once again doubled the amount of the scholarship award from $2,000 to $4,000 but reduced the number of awards given. We awarded 10 system impacted women & girls with a total of $40,000. This helped us cross **$100,000** in scholarships awarded since the program's inception.



THE PERRY SECOND CHANCES SCHOLARSHIP

CLASS OF 2024



Chaundra A.

Major: Health Science

Future Goal:
To equip others with the skills to navigate health information critically, make informed decisions about their well-being, and advocate effectively for their needs.



Danielle A.

Major: Social Work

Future Goal:
To advocate for underserved students at the intersection between the U.S. education system and the U.S. carceral system in which they get trapped.



Renee C.

Major: Criminal Justice

Future Goal:
To be a lawyer to advocate for changes to custody laws, the foster care system and represent families affected by the system and give my community access to resources that help them understand their rights.

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THE PERRY SECOND CHANCES SCHOLARSHIP

CLASS OF 2024



Aamyiah E.

Major: Psychology

Future Goal:
To create a wellness and lifestyle company targeted toward women of color that speaks towards their mind, body, and spirit.



Troynyah H.

Major: Healthcare Admin

Future Goal:
To contribute meaningfully to my chosen field, whether through innovative solutions, research advancements, or community engagement.



Ladashia L.

Major: Behavioral Science

Future Goal:
To become an Educator to help bridge the gap in the shortage of teachers here in Louisiana. I have always had a passion to nurture and educate children.

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THE PERRY SECOND CHANCES SCHOLARSHIP

CLASS OF 2024



Tiffany M.

Major: Cosmetology

Future Goal:
To complete my dream of owning my own spa/salon and show my children that no matter the mistakes you make in life, if you have dreams, never give up.



Pamela N.

Major: Criminal Justice

Future Goal:
To work in advocacy and make my mark in this world, by helping others realize their potential as I have realized mine.



Kimberly T.

Major: Criminal Justice

Future Goal:
To empower and uplift women, particularly those affected by the system. Such as advocating for gender-sensitive policies, providing educational opportunities, or creating support networks for women in need.

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THE PERRY SECOND CHANCES SCHOLARSHIP

CLASS OF 2024



Deidre T.

Major: Social Science

Future Goal:
To use my education to further legal avenues for incarcerated women and erect my non-profit to hire and represent incarcerated women's legal matters.

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CLASS OF 2025



2025:

Year 5: $150,000 Given

Thanks to our amazing friends at The Sunshine Lady Foundation, named in honor of the late sister of investor and philanthropist Warren Buffett and an anonymous donor passionate about making a difference, The Thurman Perry Foundation gave our largest single award in program history in 2025. We gave five amazing winners from a wide range of fields and walks of life $10,000 scholarship awards, in some cases covering their tuition for the entire school year! This helped us cross $150,000 in scholarship funding given in just 5 years of our flagship program's history.



THE PERRY SECOND CHANCES SCHOLARSHIP

CLASS OF 2025



Naia B.

Major: Aerospace Engineering

Future Goal:
To journey into space as an astronaut and show young Black children that they can achieve what may seem impossible, pushing the boundaries of their own potential by continuing to break barriers and create pathways.



Camara M.

Major: Accounting

Future Goal:
To service my community as an Enrolled Agent and Certified Public Accountant and help those in my community, especially women, seeking to better their lives financially with their current circumstances.



Penelope M.

Major: Social Work

Future Goal:
To bridge grassroots activism with policy advocacy, ensuring that those who are most affected by injustice have a direct role in shaping policies that affect their lives and mentor the next generation of advocates.

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THE PERRY SECOND CHANCES SCHOLARSHIP

CLASS OF 2025



Alexia P.

Major: Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Future Goal:

To create a safe space for families like mine to access mental health services and establish a wellness center for POC, offering therapy, mindfulness practices like yoga and meditation, and a childcare center .



Anna T.

Major: Psychology and Criminology and Criminal Justice

Future Goal:

To pursue a career in child clinical psychology, using research and advocacy to support children with incarcerated parents.

CLASS OF 2026



2026:

Year 5: $200,000 Given

The Sunshine Lady Foundation's continued generosity allowed us to cross the major milestone of $200,000 in scholarships awarded in 2026! In a round that saw one of the highest number of applicants in the program's history, we chose five scholars from across the US in both graduate and undergraduate studies to receive $10,000 scholarship awards. This includes our first scholar of Asian descent and a scholar who is studying to become a pilot. Only 10% of commercial airline pilots are women, so she will help bring change in the industry!



THE PERRY SECOND CHANCES SCHOLARSHIP

CLASS OF 2026



Leslie B.

Major: Social Work

Future Goal:
To serve my community and help people coming out of prison and/or battling substance abuse who feel that there's no other life available and let them know that their past does not define their future.



Dana D.

Major: Psychology

Future Goal:
To help women struggling with addiction achieve sobriety, rebuild their confidence, rediscover their value, and believe in themselves enough to start over.



April G.

Major: Social Work

Future Goal:
To advocate for evidence-based practices and policies that remove barriers to education, address inequalities, and promote holistic well-being for all children, especially those from underserved communities who have experienced adversity.

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THE PERRY SECOND CHANCES SCHOLARSHIP

CLASS OF 2026



Aniya P.

Major: Journalism

Future Goal:
To inform the public of global injustices, amplify marginalized voices, and hold powerful institutions who have caused harm or are corrupted accountable.



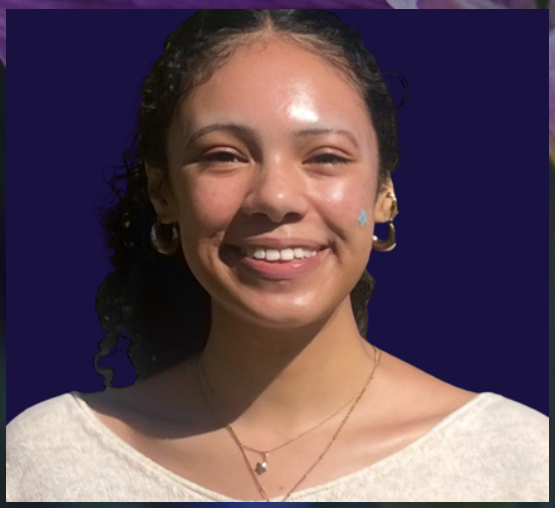
Ava S.

Major: Leadership with Aviation Concentration

Future Goal:
To work at an airline and transport people to job interviews, important business meetings, medical appointments, and be the pilot who gets someone to the opportunity that changes their life.

RICARDO A. HEADLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARS

The Ricardo A. Headley Memorial Scholarship is an award dedicated in honor of our Executive Board Chair TC Headley's late father Ricardo and reserved for a student or alumna of Howard University, a notable HBCU, or Journalism major with a drive and passion to make a difference. These scholars embody the essence of what Ricardo gave to the world, strength, tenacity, determination, and a spirit of giving back.









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THE PERRY SECOND CHANCES SCHOLARSHIP

HEAR FROM OUR SCHOLARS

"As an astronaut hopeful, my aspirations to journey into space are not only a personal dream but also a testament to what is possible for others like me. I want to show young Black children that they, too, can achieve what may seem impossible, pushing the boundaries of their own potential. Through these efforts, I hope to continue breaking barriers and creating pathways for others to follow."

-Naia B., PSCS '25

"My background as a Russian-Ukrainian daughter of immigrants has given me an international perspective and an appreciation for diverse experiences. This scholarship will fund the last year of my college education and allow me to focus on obtaining my Bachelor's degrees in Criminology and Psychology. With this scholarship I am going to be able to also continue pursuing my graduate school education as well! My experiences have given me the empathy, resilience, and determination to pursue a career in child clinical psychology, using research and advocacy to support children with incarcerated parents."

-Anna T., PSCS '25

"Once I complete my studies, I plan to service my community as an Enrolled Agent and Certified Public Accountant. My goal is to help those in my community, especially women, seeking to better their lives financially with their current circumstances. I believe and am proof anything is possible if you put your mind to it regardless of your current circumstances and want to help others believe that as well."

-Camara M., PSCS '25

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THE PERRY SECOND CHANCES SCHOLARSHIP

HEAR FROM OUR SCHOLARS

"The Thurman Perry Foundation scholarship will help me continue my aviation training by reducing the financial burden of flight lessons and related expenses. With this support, I can stay focused on earning my pilot certifications and building the skills needed for a successful career in aviation."

-Ava S., PSCS '26

"[This scholarhsip] would not only provide essential resources to cover my expenses, such as books, student insurance, and transportation to and from my internship, but also offer me the support I need to focus fully on my studies and professional growth. With this financial assistance, the heavy burden of worrying about how to meet my educational costs would be lifted, allowing me to pursue my goals with greater confidence and dedication."

-April G., PSCS '26

"This scholarship is the answer to my prayers. As a single mother paying for school out of pocket, it will help me finish my senior year, continue pursuing my goal of becoming a social worker to create a better future for my family, and give back to my community."

-Leslie B., PSCS '26

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CONGRATS PSCS GRADS!
WE'RE SO PROUD OF YOU!







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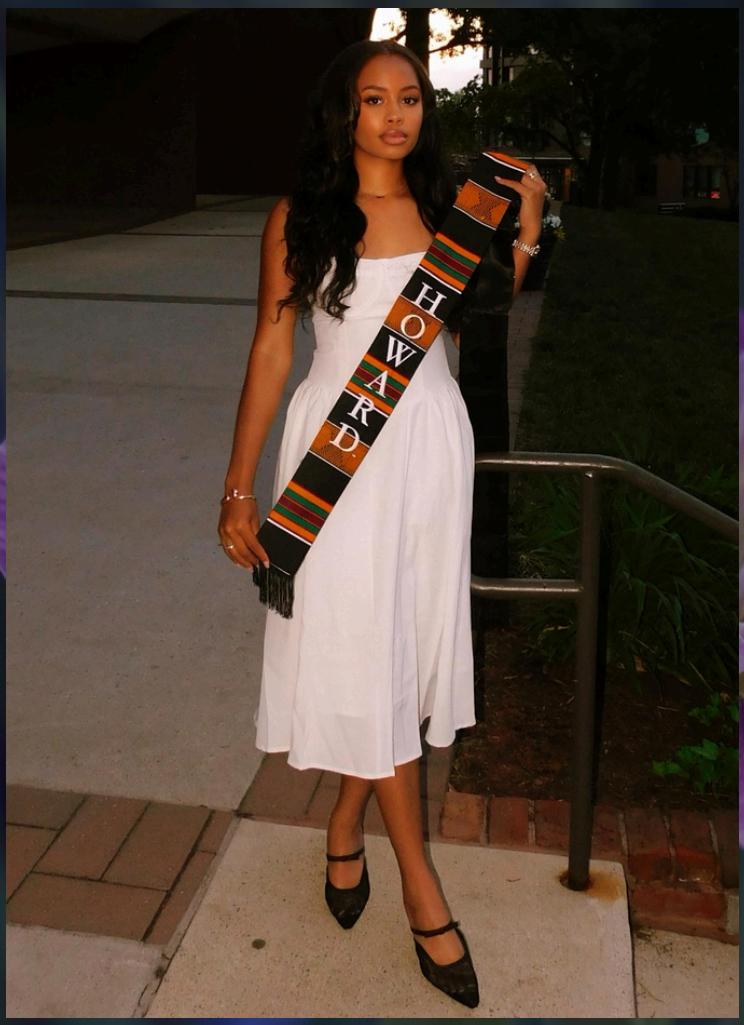
CONGRATS PSCS GRADS!
WE'RE SO PROUD OF YOU!











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THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR PROGRAMS. WE COULD NOT DO WHAT WE DO WITHOUT YOU!

THE Sunshine Lady FOUNDATION, INC.

new hour

AUNT flow®

GRANTMAKERS FOR GIRLS OF COLOR

Foundation for Louisiana

SUSAN HUTSON SHERIFF STATE OF LOUISIANA ORLEANS PARISH

LOUISIANA ABORTION FUND

WCJA Women's Community Justice Association

parole project

THANK YOU TO OUR INDIVIDUAL SPONSORS

JATAVIA "JT" JOHNSON

MATT JANICKI

JEMMYE CARROLL

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA TO LEARN MORE



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