

Celebrating Academic Brilliance in Our Community!

CCAWR Scholarship Program – 2021 year in review



Black History Month highlights the achievements and history of Black Canadians. 2021 marked the 19th year of operation of the Caribbean Canadian Association of Waterloo Region (CCAWR) Scholarship Program and we have much to celebrate by recognizing the achievements of many young talented students of Caribbean heritage in our Waterloo Community.

This year, for the first time, we awarded 10 scholarships to several very accomplished students from our community. Scholarships not only help them financially to pursue post-secondary education but also highlight-and recognize their achievements. Many of these young talents will go on to do fantastic things in our community: become leaders, innovators, professionals, and inspire other young people in our community to follow.

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 felt a bit like 2020 as our community continued to face many challenges due to the pandemic. Fortunately, the momentum and awareness about our program from 2020 carried over into 2021 resulting in increased interest and participation in the scholarship program overall. While we did not receive as many high school applications this year, we saw a dramatic increase in the number of university students applying. Many students struggled to find jobs and the cost of college and university education continues to rise, which continues to present a financial challenge for them and their families.

- 23 applications for scholarships
- 10 scholarships awarded
- 5 high school and 5 university students
- Top scholarship award of \$3000
- Over \$23,000 in fundraising
- New donors and corporate support

Fundraising - breaking our \$10,000 annual goal again!

As a yearly goal, we set our sights on raising more funds to provide more scholarships, increased levels for the scholarships, or both. For the third time in the program's history, we exceeded our \$10,000 annual goal and raised over \$23,000. This is a new bar for our scholarship program despite not being able to hold our marquee fundraising event, the Annual Family Brunch. We are very grateful to our local community which continues to step up!

“Alone we can do so little; Together we can do so much” – Helen Keller

10 students were awarded scholarships

Despite the challenges with marketing the scholarship program, we had a record of 23 students applying for scholarships. With the success of our fundraising efforts, we were able to award a record-breaking 10 scholarships of at least \$1500 each to several outstanding students from Kitchener, Waterloo, and Cambridge. 5 high school, 4 university, and 1 post-graduate students received awards.

We are blessed to be able to assist these young people with a helping hand towards their academic

dreams. We started with a single award of \$500 back in 2003 and through your ongoing support, we have now awarded 74 students \$81,500 in scholarship funds. Simply fantastic!



“Supporting the educational aspirations of young people of Caribbean heritage in our community”

Thank you to our donors

We continue to be very grateful to all our donors and would like to especially thank those individual and corporate donors that have continued to support us with multi-year commitments. Raffi Jewellers has again stepped up to support the Vincent Smith Memorial Scholarship with a \$3,000.00 donation. We would also like to thank The Black Faculty Collective, the Delabarre Pierre-Louis Family, the James family, and Famous Five Management for their generous contribution towards new or upgraded scholarships this year. Many thanks to all those individual donors that helped fund several of our scholarships. We can't thank them enough for their generous donations in 2021.

Student	2021 Award
Aajha Buckley	UW Black Faculty Collective Scholarship
Aaliyah Dawkins	Famous Five Management Scholarship
Aleena Persaud	Neischa Bazzey Scholarship
Anuja Kaur Maraj Binning	Vincent Smith Memorial Scholarship
Carlton Jason Darby	Karl Bennett & Jacoba Wesseling Scholarship
Elexis Thompson	James STEM Graduate Scholarship
Justice McKenzie	Delabarre Pierre-Louis Family Scholarship
Lily Joy Brown	Laura DaCosta Scholarship
Niara van Gaalen	Ingrid Berkeley Scholarship
Sarion Street	CCAWR Scholarship

Annual Family Brunch and Awards of Excellence Events – Cancelled for the 2nd year



After a record-breaking year in 2019 for our Family Brunch and the Award of Excellence, both events had to be cancelled due to the pandemic in 2021. The Annual Family Brunch is a key fundraising and social in-person event for the CCAWR and the Scholarship Program. We are planning to hold the event again in June 2022. The Awards of Excellence awards ceremony is a joint event hosted by the CCAWR and the Canadian Congress of Black Women and is always a huge success. We look forward to hosting it in person again in late September.

Final thoughts and plans for 2022 – our 20th year!

2021, unfortunately, was almost a repeat of 2020 with the COVID-19 pandemic still impacting many across the globe. Despite the challenges, the scholarship program had another record-breaking year, both in applications, scholarships awarded, and donations. With the ongoing generous support of new corporate contacts, new donors, and the response from our community, we exceeded our annual fundraising goal which allows us to award 10 scholarships this year. The CCAWR and the scholarship committee can't thank everyone enough and look to do even better in 2022.

Despite the spread of the Omicron and Delta Covid-19 variants, we are seeing a light at the end of the tunnel in 2022. We are optimistic that many restrictions will be lifted, and we will be able to return to some degree of normalcy. We are hopeful that we will be able to hold our annual Family Brunch and Awards in June of Excellence events in person, and we are looking forward to seeing many of our friends from the community once again.

2022 will be the 20th year for the scholarship program and we know that we could not achieve this success over all those years without your support and the support from our community. We look forward to continuing to build on our past successes to assist many of our local youth to achieve their academic dreams.

My sincere thanks for your ongoing support.



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