

# Four Mississippi students were awarded T-Mobile scholarships

## Academic Scholarships awarded to JAG students facing financial challenges, who have overcome significant obstacles to graduate high school

### Press Release

Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG), a national non-profit that has served over 1.4 million youth who face significant academic, emotional and environmental challenges for four decades, is pleased to announce that T-Mobile has provided academic scholarships to 27 JAG students nationwide. These \$1,000 scholarship recipients have displayed incredible resilience and commitment to higher education and will use the funds to cover college expenses this fall.

Since high school graduations were cancelled, postponed, or modified due to the COVID-19 pandemic, T-Mobile helped bring the graduation tradition of the cap toss to life...virtually through a TikTok cause marketing campaign. Participants posted TikTok videos with #TossYourCap, and T-Mobile made a \$5 donation to JAG per video, up to \$200,000. The response to this challenge was spectacular, allowing JAG to reach the \$200,000 goal and donation from T-Mobile. A portion of these funds will help build virtual services for JAG students in addition to the scholarships for JAG students. Scholarship recipients were chosen based on their application, high school transcript, letters of reference, leadership experience, description of community service, and essay.

In Mississippi, the following students were awarded T-Mobile scholarships:

Deonte Adams - Lambert, MS; Dashia Harris - Sledge, MS; Latavius Johnson - Marks, MS; and Issac Jamal Randle Jr. - Lexington, MS.

"We're extremely thankful to T-Mobile for their generosity in an extraordi-

narily difficult year. JAG students have been hit the hardest - and will likely be impacted the longest - by the COVID-19 crisis. For many JAG students and their families, the pandemic has led to the loss of jobs and necessary income. T-Mobile's scholarships will help JAG students pursue secondary education and meaningful careers," said Ken Smith, President of Jobs for America's Graduates. "As of May 31, even during the worst of the pandemic, JAG had 40% enrolled in post-secondary education - the same percentage as last year. This at a time when the post-secondary system faced unprecedented challenges due to COVID-19. These funds are certainly going to good use."

"The students selected to receive T-Mobile's scholarships have demonstrated hard work, dedication, tenacity, and positivity, overcoming a variety of significant challenges to succeed in high school, get accepted to college, and pursue positive pathways - even during a pandemic. The past few months have undoubtedly been difficult, challenging, and chaotic, and we're proud of these scholarship recipients - and all of our JAG

students - for finishing the school year strong," said Ramona Willams, Executive Director of Jobs for Mississippi Graduates (JMG).

"The future is bright because America's youth are passionate, driven and striving for change, and this donation towards education is just a part of T-Mobile's overall investment and our commitment to empower the change makers of tomorrow," said Brigitta Witt, VP, Corporate Responsibility & Sustainability at T-Mobile. "Congratulations to each of these award recipients ... we can't wait to see all of their achievements!"

As businesses and schools adapt in response to COVID-19, JAG, their state-based Affiliates, and dedicated JAG Specialists continue to provide ongoing services to 75,000 youth across the country so they are prepared for the competitive job market following graduation. As schools remain closed and social distancing guidelines continue, JAG is using virtual tools and learning modules to stay connected with students, ensure their basic needs are being met, and make certain they're well-prepared to enter one of the worst job markets in our nation's history.



**July 9** - Sandra Russell, Cyriah Crowder, Ashley Trehern, Coleman Hays, Cindy Blankenship, Reilly Carr

**July 10** - Stephen Woo, Jeffrey Maxwell, Jennifer Maxwell

**July 11** - Carolyn Thomas, Adam Tate, Betty Land, Jimmie Dale Thomas, Paul Taylor, Charity Boyd, Allen L. Rogers, Courtney Garrett

**July 12** - Colby Myles, Dorothy Gatson, Eddie L. Melton, Stephanie Diffey, Virginia Nations

**July 13** - Matthew Breazeale, Alyssa Camille Watson, Carolyn Pepper, Shinna Anderson, Zac Gilmer, Corey Dowdy

**July 14** - Nancy Lowe, Charlie Luckett, Van Mayberry, Emma Holmes, Blake Thomas, Justin Harthcock, Hudson Haffey, Preston Carnathan, Randi Langford

**July 15** - Billy Wigley, Robert Streeter, Sue Ables, Kendrick Cobbins, Susan G. Word, Steve Davis, Charlie Mae Joiner, Britni Belk, Julie Fulgham, Jarius McChriston

# Boxes of Blessings

Photos by Deloris Brown



On Friday, June 26, New Liberty Full Gospel Fellowship (The Gathering Place) in Pickens, blessed area citizens with its first community food giveaway held at Pickens Municipal Building, MS Highway 51, Pickens. It was held as a drive-thru, first come, first served basis. One box per car or two boxes per car if individuals were not of the same household, were made available. Ninety boxes were distributed after fellowship members "prayed and believed by FAITH for this opportunity to be a blessing," said member Deloris Brown. "One scripture we love to use is Mark 11:24. It let's us know that God always provides in crisis, hardship and a coronavirus pandemic COVID-19." Helpers included food suppliers, Pickens Mayor William Primer, fellowship members, police staff and town workers. Pictured above are town workers Mario Haymon, Rev. Adams and Mr. Anderson.



Pictured above from left: Deacon Theo and Apostle Deloris Brown-Thompson, members of New Liberty Full Gospel Fellowship (The Gathering Place).



PASTOR WILLIE BERRY



PICKENS MAYOR WILLIAM PRIMER



Pictured above: Pickens Alderman James White. Pictured at right (from left): helpers Robert Davis Jr. and Towaski Johnson, pose for a photo op.



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