



Scholarship Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 2:30 – 3:00pm

Webinar ID: 973 0879 1915 <https://UCOP.zoom.us/j/97308791915>

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Jai Bailey graduated in May 2020 from John Muir High School in Pasadena, CA, with 3.7 GPA. He's currently a freshman at UC Santa Barbara majoring in political science. Jai credits his "loud, funny, musical, loving, honest and determined" family for his success. "All four (of us) children were raised to see our Blackness as an asset not a deficit, regardless of racism (institutional, unconscious, direct or otherwise)." Jai is appreciative of the support from his family, the community, and organizations (such as Upward Bound and the Puente Project). The Puente Project is an inter-segmental program, co-sponsored by the University of California. Jai stated "receiving this scholarship would help reduce my loan debt, allow me to concentrate on my studies and ensure I have an opportunity to enroll in graduate school to pursue a degree in finance or law." He acknowledges the challenges of attending college remotely and having limited Wi-Fi capability, but firmly believes his resilience and determination will help him achieve his goals, not only for himself but for his younger sisters as well.



Rakia White works hard to earn her academic success as a full-time student, despite the many obstacles she faces. Rakia openly shared her challenges around mental health, childhood trauma, and combatting homelessness. "Although I do struggle with financial hardships, they do not define me." While attending the College of Marin, Rakia took on a leadership role within the Women 2 Women Club. It was there that she advocated for better mental health services for Black and Latina women and successfully wrote a grant proposal, which provided funding for tech-related projects. In the fall of 2019 Rakia transferred from the College of Marin to UC Berkeley. "Growing up, I never felt a sense of belonging being a Black woman in a predominantly white affluent county. I did not feel that I had the same resources and privileges. Through my time at the College of Marin, and now at UC Berkeley, that mindset changed. I gained allies and became close to mentors and faculty that truly cared about not only my education but my well-being and place in this world." Rakia truly deserves to benefit from the financial stability and peace of mind this scholarship will provide as she continues on her academic journey.



Sia'h Fanta Jimissa graduated in June 2020 from Freedom High School in Oakley, CA, with a 4.11 GPA. She's currently a freshman at UC Berkeley, majoring in Public Health and Integrative Biology. As a young child Sia'h watched her mother travel back and forth to her family's country of Sierra Leone to help her grandmother who was ill. Sia'h shared how that experience affected her. "This has stemmed my interest in medicine and public health, with a focus on global health and health policy. While majoring in Public Health and Integrative Biology, I will be gaining the knowledge to help me pursue my goal to become a physician." Last summer, Sia'h participated in a five-week medical program for underrepresented students and learned about the pervasive impacts of racism within healthcare. Sia'h explained, "Examining the historic maltreatment suffered by Black people from powerful institutions including the US government showed me that to be a successful public health physician, I need to be knowledgeable about my community's history. I also need to be comfortable using an interdisciplinary approach to medicine so that I can help solve persisting problems."

