Message from the President

This year we have so much to celebrate! Thanks to all our donors—and in particular to the generous support of the Norman and Ruth Rales Foundation—I am delighted to welcome fifty (50) new Scholars to the RBS family. Not only is this the largest class ever, but they join a wave of new Scholars that is rapidly swelling our ranks. The Rales Foundation has pledged support for 25 additional Scholars per cohort through at least 2025! This extraordinary expression of faith in us and our mission to cultivate the next generation of African American leaders, means that in three years Ron Brown Scholars and Alumni will likely top 730. If you’ve ever participated in our selection process, you know that every year we are faced with difficult decisions, forced to choose just a few from so many highly qualified applicants. We’re deeply grateful to now be in the position to offer so many more of these young leaders a shot at a life-changing scholarship.

I couldn’t agree more! We are proud to be able to recognize all our semifinalists and finalists by welcoming them into the Ron Brown – Norman and Ruth Rales Leaders Network. The Leaders Network offers these Ron Brown Captains, as we call them, the best mentorship and professional development RBSP has to offer. In fact, this year marks the 10th anniversary of the Leaders Network, and our Program’s formal expansion into the world of professional development. You’ll get to read in these pages about two of our signature events, our annual Case Competition and the Leaders Summit, as well as meet the new members of the Leaders Network’s

(continued on page 2)
Welcome Michael Billings, RBS 1997 to the Advisory Board

Michael is an Investment Manager at Vanderbilt University’s Office of Investments. He’s a generalist with a primary area of focus on public markets investments globally across all strategies with a particular focus on small and emerging managers. He also contributes to the private markets portfolio. Vanderbilt’s endowment consists of both traditional and alternative investments, including public equities, hedge funds, commodities, fixed income, and private market investments.

Michael graduated from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in 2002 with a major in Economics and a Masters in Finance from the University of Utah - David Eccles School of Business.

Michael’s experiences, advice and good counsel will continue to assist us as we aim to strengthen the organization and further the mission of the Program.

“The Value of One, The Power of All” Podcast Coming Soon!

Inspired by Jaden Stewart, RBS 2022, as part of his application to the Program, we are excited to announce the launch of the RBS podcast series. Jaden wrote about how through his words and his voice, he strives to inspire and encourage students to create the positive change we want to see in this world. Furthermore, he explained how creating a digital facet of the Ron Brown legacy would inspire students locally, nationally and around the globe.

The “The Value of One, The Power of All” podcast will highlight stories of Scholars, alumni, staff, partners, and friends that make this Program special. We would love for friends of the Program to be guests on the show. If you are interested, go to RBS Connect (alumni.ronbrown.org) and click on the “Be a Guest on the RBS Podcast” link under the “RBS News” tab.

Message from the President
(continued from cover)

Council. Congratulations to Holly Duke, Director of the Ron Brown - Ruth and Norman Rales Leaders Network, on a decade of excellence. Her work on behalf of our students and partners has dramatically accelerated the careers of so many Scholars and Captains.

GPS, our free virtual college access program, just launched its updated website to coincide with an expansion of its services to high school sophomores. We are again on track to help over 1000 Black high school students research, apply to and pay for college this year. Our staff of Ron Brown Scholars, Captains and college admissions professionals, hosts seminars on issues ranging from mental and physical health, to the effects of COVID on the college application process. They also work one-on-one with students, helping them make the most of their essays, interviews, summer plans and college applications. GPS is open to all African American high school sophomores, juniors and seniors, and we accept new students year-round. If you know any eligible students, please direct them to www.rbsgps.com, where they will find a link to the registration form.

Although this is Ron Brown’s 25th Anniversary year, and a time to reflect on the past, I also find my eyes fixed resolutely on the future. If we can keep up our current pace, we’ll have over 1000 Scholars and Alumni by early next decade. And by the time we hit our 50th Anniversary… who knows what this incredible group will be able to accomplish? Those of you, who know us well, realize that we’re always pushing to have the Scholars become more successful, to have the Program moving forward and to recognize our friends and donors. This year we wanted to focus on sharing our Scholars’ stories. I hope that all of you were able to receive an electronic copy of the 25th Anniversary Scholar Directory; a kind of Who’s-Who of Ron Brown Scholars, which includes not only the undergraduates and alumni, but also their academic achievements at the graduate level. (That document was emailed to everyone several weeks ago and if you didn’t get a copy you may visit this link: https://issuu.com/ronbrownscholars/docs/rbsp_digital_scholar_directory_2022.)

On behalf of everyone connected with the Program, both past and present, we thank you for your continued generosity and support of our Ron Brown Scholars. We look forward to impacting many more lives over the next 25 years and beyond.

With heartfelt thanks,

Michael A. Mallory
President and CEO
Ten years ago, the Ron Brown Scholar Program (RBSP) made a major change to their service model that would yield benefits for thousands of young Black leaders. Since its inception in 1996, the Program awarded scholarships to up to 25 economically-challenged high schoolers who were selected from thousands of applications based on their academic excellence plus keen interest in public service, entrepreneurship and global citizenship. As the Program grew in recognition, the number of applications soared. Some years saw over 10,000 applications for a highly-coveted spot in this small, intellective group. The RBSP leadership team and Board of Trustees recognized that too many exceptional Black students across the nation were being precluded from their strong network of support services and professional contacts. They decided to bring these remarkable finalists into the fold by adding a new designation to the Ron Brown family; the Ron Brown Captain.

Currently, Ron Brown Scholars and Captains together total 1,150 undergraduate students in the Ron Brown - Ruth & Norman Rales Leaders Network. While they attend over 200 universities nationwide, you will find them well-represented in highly selective schools such as Harvard (101 Ron Brown students), Stanford (63 Ron Brown students), Yale (52 Ron Brown students), and MIT (48 Ron Brown Students). For 2022, the top three majors for students in our Network are Computer Science, Engineering and Biology. Providing a trusted source of distinguished internships an early career options for this discerning group is a hallmark of the Leaders Network. In the summer of 2021, over 80 students completed internships or early career programs with our corporate partners.

One of the first class of Captains was 18-year-old Kristeen Reynolds from Port Arthur, Texas. Kristeen attended Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas where she maintained a 4.0 GPA in her accounting major while serving on the Student Advisory Council to the Dean and staying active in organizations such as Phi Kappa Phi honor society and Beta Gamma Sigma business honor society. Kristeen earned an MS in Accounting from Lamar in 2017. In college, Kristeen participated in a Leaders Network initiative where students visited a major investment bank in New York City. There she gained her first exposure to finance and investment banking. She later joined our corporate partners at Deloitte where she worked for over three years as an analyst and CPA in audit, accounting, Robotic Process Automation and Data analytics. An avid soccer player, former coach and referee – Kristeen now combines her love of athletics with her business acumen as the founder of Drinkicks, a sneaker-themed juice and wellness company.

Over a decade after being part of the inaugural class of Ron Brown Captains, Kristeen is a role model and advisor to Ron Brown Scholars and Captains as member of our Leaders Network Council. When she's not on the road pitching Drinkicks to venture capitalists, you can find her at home in Texas working on her other start-up ventures in real estate and sport marketing, as well as following her favorite sports teams. We caught up with Kristeen to ask her about being one of the first Ron Brown Captains and her hopes for the future of the Leaders Network.

What do you remember about your first hopes and fears for attending college after being named a Ron Brown Captain? And what type of support do you think is most needed by students at that critical junction in life?

KR: It’s a little painful to admit that moment was so long ago. I remember not being sure what to expect but ready for the challenge. I believe support is the most important thing needed in that moment. I chose to go to a school close to home because my grandmother was unfortunately suffering from Alzheimers. Staying close to home allowed me to have my support system nearby which is not always the case for a lot of students.

What do you think is the value of the Ron Brown Scholar Program and others like it that direct support and services at high-achieving Black students?

KR: It is important to be surrounded with other leaders and ambitious individuals. I believe the network provided by the Ron Brown Scholar Program is so valuable. It provides exposure and access to people who have reached the success to which you are aspiring, as well individuals to help you get there.

As a business entrepreneur, what innovations would you like to see the Ron Brown Scholar Program endeavor for in the future?

KR: As an entrepreneur, I would love to see more education and support for individuals who are interested in owning their own business either full or part time. I would also love to see the creation of a Ron Brown think tank or accelerator program that provides students with resources to help transform ideas into viable products and businesses.

**Bruke Kifle, RBS 2015**

As I reflect on my time as an RBS, I am grateful to be a part of a community that has continued to push me to be a better version of myself. Wishing the RBSP many more years of success and continued impact! I have committed to donate, volunteer and mentor to support the next generation of Ron Brown Scholars.
Ron Brown Strategy Competitions

Entering its sixth year, our Strategy Competition brings undergraduate Scholars and Captains together in teams to tackle real-world challenges using solutions that address economic, technical, and social issues. Previous competitions centered around critical issues such as public school funding, electronic waste, and improving access to financial services for unbanked individuals. Previous 1st place winner, Christopher Jean-Louis, a Ron Brown Captain from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, reflects on his experience “I had no idea what a case competition was, nor did I have any understanding of how to discuss and argue for investment. The breakneck speed of the competition was a thrill, and besides the learning opportunity it presented, it was a welcome chance to explore unfamiliar topics that seemed daunting.”

We welcome participation from our Partners in these competitions. Opportunities are available for case design, volunteer coaching, judges and sponsorship. If you are involved in a business or social impact project that could make a great case study for this competition, please reach out to Holly Duke, Director of Leadership at hduke@ronbrown.org.

Ron Brown Leaders’ Summit

The 2022 Ron Brown Leaders’ Summit is coming to you virtually this year on June 21-24. The annual Ron Brown Leaders’ Summit brings the community of college students and alumni in the Ron Brown-Ruth and Norman Rales Leaders Network for four days of engaged discussion and camaraderie. The Summit also connects students with corporate Partners for networking and professional development. Partners share career advice with our young leaders while introducing them to professional opportunities within their organizations.

The 2022 Summit features daily sessions for Ron Brown Scholars and Captains to connect with one another and alumni. We are also bringing back Summit favorites; the Strategy Competition, Speed Networking Session, and the annual Women in STEM Dinner sponsored by Latham & Watkins, Apex Clean Energy, Jane Street, and Deloitte.

The Summit will conclude on Friday, June 24 with our keynote event “Justice for Elijah: Reflections from the Panel Investigation of Aurora CO following the Death of Elijah McClain” presented as a Q&A discussion between Ron Brown Scholar and rising Harvard Law 1L Leah Yared and Jonathan Smith, Executive Director of Washington Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs who headed up the investigation.

To learn more, please visit the 2022 Ron Brown Leaders Summit website: https://www.ronbrownleaderssummit.org/.
Celebrating 534 Ron Brown Scholars from 1997 to 2021

534 brilliant Scholars, 534 humanitarians working to better our world. Please check out the recently published Ron Brown Scholar Directory at www.ronbrown.org where you will find photos and brief biographies of each and every Ron Brown Scholar from 1997 to 2021.

This extraordinary group of people has coalesced thanks to the vision of one man: Anthony M. Pilaro, who established this Program a quarter-century ago as a living monument to the memory of Secretary of Commerce Ronald H. Brown. Every day for the last 25 years, our Scholars have been out there, doing their best to live up to Secretary Brown’s example, achieving excellence in their chosen fields while devoting themselves bettering their communities, our country, and the world. We are so proud of each of the 534 Scholars featured in this directory. From medicine and science to law, public service, and the arts, Ron Brown Scholars have become leaders in a dazzling array of fields.

Thank you for being such a significant part of this journey and for your continuous support - we couldn’t do this important work without you.

Ron Brown Welcomes New Partner SVB (Silicon Valley Bank)

Ron Brown-Ruth and Norman Rales Leaders Network welcomes SVB (Silicon Valley Bank) to our portfolio of corporate partners. SVB is an investment bank providing financial services to companies with a special focus on innovation economy. This partnership is a great fit for our students and alumni with interest in financial support and advising for early stage startups in addition to larger, established firms. https://www.svb.com/
Bringing Wellness to the RBS Community

After a decade of practicing as an attorney in a global law firm, Karla Aghedo, RBS 2001, recently launched The Aghedo Firm PLLC, specializing in white collar criminal defense, as well as Houston Life Rhythms LLC, a real estate investment company.

Born in Kansas City, KS, raised in Oklahoma and Texas, Karla always thought of herself as a Southern girl. After graduating from high school in Tyler, TX and moving to Iowa for undergrad, the common response to her introduction became “Oh, so you’re a Midwestern girl!” Kansas. Oklahoma. Texas. Iowa. Karla likes to say she’s thoroughly covered Tornado Alley.

Karla is the middle child of three stair-step sisters and a brother who is eleven years younger than her. Before her brother was born, she and her sisters sang, performed, traveled, and recorded as an acapella Gospel quartet. Karla also played the cello, joined the debate team, ran for office, and acted in plays and musicals throughout her time in school. So she would rarely shy away from a stage.

Public speaking and advocacy have always been a part of who she is and who she wanted to be. After graduating from Iowa State University in 2005, Karla spent two years working and then attended University of Virginia School of Law. She spent her first year of practice as an Assistant District Attorney in Anderson County, Texas and worked as a Senior Associate in the Washington, DC and Houston offices of a global law firm, Hogan Lovells US LLP.

Wellness of mind, body, and spirit is mission critical for Karla because of her experience as a high-achieving, tight-rope walking, box-checking, juggling and struggling professional woman in big Law. She saw so many women like her experiencing the same thing - with little to no knowledge of the resources available to support them in their journey, until it was too late. Karla hit a wellness wall in June of 2019 when she needed to have an emergency surgery and spent 6 weeks away from the office. “Honestly, that scary time was a true gift” reflects Karla as it gave her the opportunity to reflect, do some specific things for her health and well-being that had been on the back burner for years. After the experience her first ever wellness retreat, the idea of planning quarterly wellness retreats for hard-charging women like her was conceived.

RBS Restore Wellness Retreat in June 2022

All RBS current scholars and alumni are invited to the RBS Restore Wellness Retreat on June 3-4, 2022 hosted virtually in partnership with Houston Wellness Workshops for Women (H3W). Join us for a weekend to restore your energy, your inspiration, and ultimately your power as a high achiever. Reserve your spot on RBSCconnect (alumni.ronbrown.org).
“Wellness matters to me because it gives us the power to sustain and replenish our capacity for greatness. Believe it or not, taking a step away allows us to come back refreshed and ready to take a step up”.

Through Houston Wellness Workshops for Women (H3W), Karla curates wellness retreats, experiences, information, and resources; provide corporate wellness programs and training; and offers one-on-one and group coaching, for professional women who want to reclaim their power through wellness. H3W offers wellness workshops, retreats, networking events, and memberships to create a community of support for the mental, physical, and spiritual health of its community.

Combining her own experience with the recurring themes from hundreds of conversations with women in the same grind — lawyers, doctors, engineers, nurses, teachers, accountants, professors — facing the same struggles, she started H3W in August 2019 with the whole woman in view: mind, body, and spirit.

Karla believes it’s important to bring wellness to the Ron Brown Scholar community. “We’re a group of high achievers who often believe that working harder and sacrificing more is the only way to succeed. We often defer and delay our own happiness, health, and well-being in pursuit of our goals — and perhaps more often in support of someone else’s goals, for themselves or for us. All to our detriment. Only to look up and find that everything we’ve worked so hard to achieve isn’t really what we want, or we have no time to enjoy it. Most importantly, we often lack the mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual health to enjoy it”.

Karla’s hope is to bring a focus on wellness while we work so we can thrive and optimize our contributions to the world.

GPS Spotlight: Delaney Swinton, RBS 2022

Among the fifty newly named 2022 Ron Brown Scholars is Delaney Swinton, a current senior at Sylvan Hills High School in Sherwood, Arkansas. Although Sherwood is her hometown, Delaney’s educational journey began over 7500 miles from Sherwood in Okinawa, Japan. There, near the military base, Delaney first attended preschool.

When thinking back on her earliest school years in Japan, Delaney recalls being surrounded by a close-knit, diverse community that emphasized the importance of learning and education. She says that her time in Japan was formative in her education and impacts how she thinks and learns to this day.

Even after returning to the United States, Delaney still found herself encouraged and supported by her community. “I’ve always had a tight-knit, supportive community around me, and I feel like that’s made me more able to take risks. I’ve always had people behind me and supporting me.”

Because of this level of support, Delaney felt comfortable exploring lots of different things growing up. She’s tried everything from sports to dancing to art. “The more you try, the more you learn,” Delaney says. This willingness to try new things—and the sense of adventure that was nurtured by her community—eventually led Delaney to discover her passions.

Delaney plans to study economics in college because she wants to understand how the economy affects people’s lives, especially the lives of Black people. She traces this desire back to when she tried something new—volunteering on a political campaign.

In 10th Grade, Delaney’s mom encouraged her to pursue a fellowship with the presidential campaign of Elizabeth Warren. There she learned about how to phone bank, how to text bank, and, more broadly, how to “do the groundwork” necessary to run a campaign. In addition to the practical experience Delaney gained, she also began to learn the importance of developing and maintaining a network. A connection she made during the Warren fellowship led her to the state senate campaign of Joyce Elliot, an Arkansas state legislator. Yet another connection led her to yet another campaign.

When thinking back on her civic engagement with these various campaigns, Delaney sees a clear connection to economics, her intended major in college. “Politics is about social change, and economics can be about that too,” she says. Delaney hopes to use the knowledge she gains about economics to become a consultant. Ultimately, she would like to work with major corporations to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion, especially when it comes to investing in Black-owned businesses.

Although Delaney is new to being named a Ron Brown Scholar, she has been familiar with the Program for quite some time. She is one of five of the Class of 2022 Scholars who participated in the Guided Pathway Support Program (GPS), an extension of the Ron Brown Scholar Program. Students who participate in GPS—GPS Navigators—receive free college counseling and direct service support from dedicated GPS staff members.

Delaney has been a Navigator since her sophomore year in high school and took advantage of lots of what that program has to offer. She used GPS’s online platform to search for scholarships, request help, and prepare for program and scholarship interviews.

Beyond the concrete resources that it provides to Navigators, GPS also aims to create a safe space for Black students to face the college search and application process together. “I feel more connected to [GPS] because there were other Black students going through the things that I was going through.”

GPS has a high-tech, high-touch approach to counseling, and Delaney found this uniquely useful during her college admission process. “The virtual format was super helpful,” Delaney said. “I got to engage with other students from around the country and see their college journeys which was super helpful.”

Even though Delaney will be a college student next year, she still plans to remain involved with GPS. “In the second half of my senior year, I’ve really seen how valu-

(continued on page 11)
2022 Ron Brown Scholars

Omenma Abengowe
South Orange, NJ
Harvard College
Human Developmental & Regenerative Biology

Adam Achebe
Chicago, IL
Stanford University
Computer Science

Ashley Adirika
Miami Gardens, FL
Harvard College
Political Science / Public Policy

Alicia Augustin
Irvington, NJ
University of Pennsylvania
Political Science

Jonathan Brown
New Britain, CT
Johns Hopkins University
Biomedical Engineering

Elijah Burks
Shreveport, LA
Tulane University
Cellular and Molecular Biology

Jeremiah Cassamajor
Silver Spring, MD
New York University
Business - Finance

Karasi Colter
Phoenix, AZ
UNC - Chapel Hill
Economics/Finance

Adia Colvin
Virginia Beach, VA
Brown University
Linguistics and Literary Arts

Jewel Cox
View Park, CA
Yale University
Global Affairs

Adedunni Dayo-Kayode
Chicago, IL
Gap Year
Computer Science

Gisele de Souza Hemmerich
Berkeley, CA
University of Pennsylvania
Economics

Dilan Desir
Ellenton, FL
Stanford University
Public Policy

Anita Dugbartey
Bronx, NY
Harvard College
Economics

Peace Freeman
Newark, NJ
University of Pennsylvania
Biology

Mary Ghebremskal
Minneapolis, MN
Yale University
Global Affairs
2022 Ron Brown Scholars

Louis Gripper, Jr.
Arsonia, CT
Emory University
Health Sciences

Venus Heidt-Worjloh
Miami Beach, FL
American University
International Relations

Daniel Hermonstine
Atlanta, GA
Georgetown University
Public Policy, Pre-Law

Sterling Hoyte
Concord, MA
Harvard College
History

Kahrie Langham
Hyde Park, MA
Brown University
Biology - PreMed

Steve Leke
Oakland, CA
University of California, Berkeley
Computer Science

Sean Lewis
Ocoee, FL
Yale University
Astrophysics

Jamal Matthew
Brooklyn, NY
Cornell University
Undecided

Jonah McArthur
Chicago, IL
Pitzer College
Public Policy

Saron Melaku
Bartonsville, MD
University of Maryland - College Park
Neuroscience

Jayda Murray
Memphis, TN
North Carolina State University
Game Design & Development

Tanisha Narine
Jamaica, NY
Yale University
Political Science

Angel Ndubisi
Las Vegas, NV
Princeton University
Molecular Biology

Christian Nichols
Brockton, MA
Stanford University
Computer Science

Osahon Odiase
New York, NY
MIT
Aerospace Engineering

Florence Onyiuke
Alamonte Springs, FL
University of Pennsylvania
International Relations & Business

Prentiss Patrick-Carter
Forest, VA
Yale University
Political Science & Theatre

(continued on page 10)
2022 Ron Brown Scholars

Gregory Perryman Jr.
Beachwood, OH
University of Virginia
Politics, Global Environment & Sustainability

Mahrhoztal Rosier
Chicago, IL
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
Computer Engineering

Destini Ruffner
Rva, VA
University of Virginia
Pre-Law

Donovan Sanders
Gastonia, NC
Tufts University
Psychology

Keturah Weeks
Moreno Valley, CA
Harvard College
Sociology or Health Studies

Hope Wells
Prescott Valley, AZ
Washington University in St. Louis
Sociology

Aunica Williams
Detroit, MI
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
Biology

Joelle Williams
Wyncote, PA
Harvard College
Global Health

Olivia Woods
Grand Prairie, TX
Yale University
Global Affairs

Khediija Shafi
Los Angeles, CA
Williams College
Public Health

Miliani Smith
Fort Mill, SC
Drexel University
Public Health

Samia Smith
Little Rock, AR
University of Southern California
Biology, Pre-Med

Jaden Stewart
Valley Village, CA
Princeton University
Political Science

Maya Stokes
Charlotte, NC
Duke University
Computer Science and Statistics

Delaney Swinton
Sherwood, AR
Stanford University
Economics

Saron Tefera
Cincinnati, OH
Yale University
Economics & Global Affairs

Kylen Thompson
Alabaster, AL
Columbia University
Psychology

Gregory Perryman Jr.
Beachwood, OH
University of Virginia
Politics, Global Environment & Sustainability

Mahrhoztal Rosier
Chicago, IL
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
Computer Engineering

Destini Ruffner
Rva, VA
University of Virginia
Pre-Law

Donovan Sanders
Gastonia, NC
Tufts University
Psychology

Keturah Weeks
Moreno Valley, CA
Harvard College
Sociology or Health Studies

Hope Wells
Prescott Valley, AZ
Washington University in St. Louis
Sociology

Aunica Williams
Detroit, MI
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
Biology

Joelle Williams
Wyncote, PA
Harvard College
Global Health

Olivia Woods
Grand Prairie, TX
Yale University
Global Affairs
Scholar Spotlight: Marjada Tucker, RBS 2014

Current: Medical Student, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Expected 2022; Residency: Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Undergraduate Institution: Rice University, 2018, BS, Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Premed

As advocate, budding entrepreneur, and 2022 Medical School Graduate, Marjada's greatest impact lies in the multiplicity of platforms that she has established to broaden her global footprint. Beyond the confines of her clinical duties, Marjada prioritizes mentorship and maintains the founding mission of the Northeast Mississippi Student Leadership Conference to cultivate and empower student leaders by promoting academic excellence, leadership development, and civic engagement. Moreover, her tenacity and authenticity continue to inspire underrepresented students across the globe aspiring to enter the world of medicine.

Marjada shares her "Journey to The Coat":
Little girls with dreams become women with vision. As early as the age of five, my dream has been to serve among the many physicians tending to the medical needs of two of the most important people in my world – my mom and baby brother. Beyond the hospital walls, they were my very first patients and primary responsibility. Caring for them instilled in me the value of hearing the patient first and discerning unspoken requests that all too often went beyond what medicine could heal. Medicine provided my family with the possibility to alter frightening health narratives and will now afford me the opportunity to fulfill my purpose. I am Marjada Faith Tucker – advocate, entrepreneur and aspiring Med Peds Physician.

I was born and raised in an impoverished community riddled with food deserts, underfunded schools, preventable disease, and inadequate access to healthcare. Thus, my perspective as a training clinician is profoundly impacted by the unique struggles of systematically oppressed and medically underserved populations. As a third-year medical student, I came to realize my unique duality—a patient advocate among colleagues and a trusted home-grown professional among patients. In a community that readily values trust over extensive training, this versatility grounds my desire to contribute to the eradication of healthcare disparities. I seek to empower communities to strive from within. Moreover, I desire training that will prepare me to collaborate with community partners and coordinate adequate care for any presenting patient.

As a Student Founder and CEO, I know that vision, resilience, and resourcefulness are among my greatest assets. These characteristics echo in the extra miles taken to lead educational equity conferences, tackle rigorous community-driven research, and build a thriving business as a full-time student. The same qualities I use as founder and entrepreneur are the same qualities that I am most proud to possess as an applicant. When given an obstacle, I create opportunity. When given an opportunity, I cultivate longevity. I am confident that these characteristics in addition to my courage, capacity and deeply rooted commitment to rural care will enable me to adapt well as a Med Peds physician.

Today, I am a multifaceted woman with a vision that five-year-old me would unequivocally be proud of. I envision leading comprehensive rural care clinics that integrate key components of patient care from social resources to strategic intervention. Ultimately, my ideal practice would encompass cradle to crown care with emphasis on key transitional periods including adolescent and geriatric medicine. I want my patients to be empowered to serve as partners in their care and to feel encouraged to evolve. Med Peds resonates with the essence of who I am—the advocate, entrepreneur, and a budding visionary in medicine.

Follow Marjada’s #JourneyToTheCoat as CEO of Miranda Gizelle.

Dr. Carmelle Norice-Tra, MD PhD, RBS 1997
I believe the “secret sauce” of the Ron Brown Scholar Program is the extraordinary level of mentorship provided throughout our educational and career paths. Mentors from the Program (both in and outside of my field) have generously offered their time to guide and support me every step of the way to success. Happy 25th Anniversary Ron Brown Scholar Program and here’s to many more years to come!
Ron Brown Leaders Network Council Welcomes New Members

We are proud to welcome three new members of the Ron Brown Leaders Network Council. The Ron Brown Leaders Network Council contains accomplished professionals who serve as role models and advisors to our students as well as guide the development of programs for Ron Brown Scholars and Captains.

Katie Harris  
Ron Brown Captain Alumna  
Associate Product Marketing Manager  
Google

Kristeen Reynolds  
Ron Brown Captain Alumna  
CPA and Partner + Entrepreneur  
(DrinKicks)  
Jean Ventures LLC

Laura Washington  
Chief Communications Officer & VP for Strategic Partnerships  
New-York Historical Society

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Samuel Z. Alemayehu (RBS 2004)  
Managing Director, Africa Cambridge Industries Ltd

Patrick Baker  
Manager/Producer

Nicole K. Bates  
Senior Advisor, Strategy & Planning, Pivotal Ventures

Douglas C. Boggs  
Partner, DLA Piper LLP (US)

Dr. L.D. Britt  
Brickhouse Professor and Chairman, Department of Surgery, Eastern Virginia Medical School

Terri Dean  
Retired Corporate Executive

Ambassador Diana Dugan  
Chairman, Cyber Century Forum

Meredith Eggers  
Co-Founder, Re-Source

Jordan Goldberg  
Entrepreneur

Jonathan Greenblatt  
CEO, Anti-Defamation League

Dane E. Holmes  
CEO, Eskalera

Michelle C. Ifill Esq.  
Executive Coach and Consultant, McFfill Consulting, LLC

Michael A. Mallory  
President & CEO, Ron Brown Scholar Fund, Executive Director, Ron Brown Scholar Program

Anthony M. Pilaro  
Chairman Emeritus RBSF Board of Trustees, Chairman, CAP Foundation, CAP Advisers Limited of Dublin

Brian Siegel  
Principal, Deloitte

Mary Snitch  
Senior Manager, Global S&T Industry Engagement, Lockheed Martin Corporation

**EMERITUS TRUSTEES**

Jack Leslie  
Senior Advisor, Weber Shandwick

Thaderine D. MacFarlane  
Philanthropist

Marva A. Smalls  
EVP, Global Inclusion Strategy, VIACOM, EVP, Public Affairs and Chief of Staff, VIACOM Kids & Family Group

Kathy Thornton-Bias  
President and CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee

Michael Treisman  
General Counsel, Global Capital Markets, Bain Capital

Tom Werner  
Chairman, Boston Red Sox, Partner and Co-Founder, Casey-Werner LLC

**ADVISORY BOARD**

Karla Aghedo (RBS 2001)  
Founder and CEO, The Aghedo Firm & Houston Wellness Workshops for Women (H3W)

Michael Billings (RBS 1997)  
Investment Manager, Vanderbilt University, Office of Investments

Eleanor Branch (RBS 2001)  
Product Strategy, ServiceNow

Darryl Cobb  
Partner, Charter School Growth Fund

Matthew D. Cutts  
Partner, Squire Patton Boggs, LLP

Dorian Dargan (RBS 2007)  
Designer and Product Leader, Human Interface Design, Apple

Elizabeth Boggs Davidsen  
VP, Office of Development Policy, U.S International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)

Chris Foley, PhD  
Senior Consultant and Healthcare Practice Lead, Plus Delta Partners

Caleb Franklin (RBS 2001)  
Founder and Managing Partner, Matter Advisors

Dana Goldsmith  
Entrepreneur

Shavonne Gordon  
VP, Enterprise Diversity Recruiting, Capital One

Anthonie Goudemond  
SVP and Head of HR, Siemens Healthinners

Lynne Hale  
Vice President, Publicity and Communications, Lucasfilm Ltd. (Retired)
Christopher Middleton, RBS 2012

Chris Middleton is halfway through his time as a law clerk in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama. The courtroom that he works in has a lengthy and significant connection to the civil rights movement. Specifically, he is in the former courtroom and chambers of Judge Frank Johnson. Judge Johnson presided over notable cases that included allowing the Selma to Montgomery March to take place and ruling for Rosa Parks, thus ending racial segregation on public buses in Montgomery. Judge Johnson also issued opinions that ordered the racial integration of public and civic life in Alabama. His decisions protected voting rights for Black people, ensured Black women and men were able to serve on juries, and ruled in favor of protecting the rights of prisoners. Judge Myron Thompson succeeded him, and Chris has had the honor and responsibility of working here since this past August. As Chris hopes to have a career as a civil rights attorney, it has been a blessing to start his legal career in a place that has such a proud legacy.

Chris will be heading back to the Bay Area at the end of his clerkship to start his fellowship at the Youth Law Center (YLC) in San Francisco. At YLC he will primarily pursue impact litigation and policy advocacy opportunities to support California’s queer youth in foster care, group homes, institutions/facilities, and juvenile detention. He will focus on two goals, (1) improving the provision of mental healthcare and gender affirming care and (2) decreasing discrimination and abuse that is based on sexual orientation, gender expression, and/or gender identity.

Terri Dean, Board of Trustees and National Selection Committee

I have been a member of the Ron Brown Scholar Program family for 16 of its 25 years. My “Sweet 16 Years” have made me a richer person because of the close professional and personal relationships I have enjoyed with many of the Scholars. The Program invests deeply, financially and personally, in each Scholar and the return on that investment is unparalleled. The Ron Brown Scholar Program is a family in every sense of the word and I am blessed to be a member. Happy 25th Anniversary, Ron Brown Scholar Program!

Morgan Harper (RBS 2001)
Attorney, community organizer, and political candidate
Judith Harrison
EVP, Global Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Weber Shandwick
Ritza Y. Hendricks
Managing Partner, R.Y.Ink! LLC
Daphra Holder (RBS 2003)
Product Manager, Facebook
Ann D. Horner
Retired Business Executive
Tracey Brown James
Managing Partner, The Cochran Firm
Kani Keita (RBS 2008)
First VP, TPG Capital
Calvin C. LaRoche
Co-Founder, DC Ventures & Associates, LLC
Greg Lorjuste
Deputy Chief of Staff, Urban Institute
Sharon Brickhouse Martin
Founder and President, Brickhouse Martin Healthcare Engineering
Ethan Monreal-Jackson (RBS 2008)
Founder, General Partner, Newtype Ventures
Lesia Bates Moss
President/CEO, Bates Consulting Group
Cynthia R. Murray
President, Cynthia Murray Enterprises, LLC
Jeffrey Nelson (RBS 2006)
Founder and CEO, Cinchapi and Co-Founder, Blavity
Kaya Orkand
Manager, Orion Technology Solutions, LLC
Jonathan Piper (RBS 1998)
Chief Scientific Officer, MIM Software
Danielle L. Purvey
Managing Director of People, Experience and Culture, Accenture
Joshua B. Rales
Founder & Managing Partner, REI Associates
Eileen Cassidy Rivera
VP of Communications, MAXIMUS Corporation
M. Michelle Robinson (RBS 1997)
Associate Professor of American Studies, UNC, Chapel Hill
Georgina Sanger
SVP-Strategic Partnerships, EverFi, Inc
Alvenia Scarborough
VP of Communications and Chief Brand Officer, The Chemours Company
Elsie Wilson Thompson
Attorney
Jonice Gray Tucker
Partner, Buckley LLP
R. Kenley Webster
Attorney at Law
Dr. Michael Williams
Chief Medical Information Officer, University of Virginia Health System
Tyrone “Woody” Woodward
Vice President, Communications, Sikorsky, a Lockheed Martin Company

Leslie Turner, RBS 2013
The Ron Brown Scholar Program has completely changed my life and I continue to be in awe of the network and resources I have had, and still have, access to. In addition to the financial burden being lifted during undergrad, I have met some of my best friends and mentors, and even got my first real job as a result of being a scholar. Thank you to the program staff for everything you have done for us! I am VERY proud to continue the Ron Brown legacy.

Dr. Tiffany Jackson, RBS 1999
One of my favorite memories of the Ron Brown Scholar Program was attending the American Journey Awards and having my parents present to commemorate the fruits of the RBS program in my life. It would be our last family trip before my father passed away and the RBS program brought us together to celebrate. Congratulations on 25 years of the RBSP! I am committed to supporting the program for the next 25 years and beyond!
Guided Pathway Support Program (GPS) presented a Future20 talk at the 2022 SXSW EDU conference, an international conference on education innovation held annually in Austin, TX. Featured speakers included U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona, New Teacher Project CEO Dr. Tequilla Brownie, Chelsea Clinton of the Clinton Foundation and reigning Scripps National Spelling Bee champion Zaila Avant-Garde.

The presentation, *Rethinking College Access Counseling*, aimed at helping K-12 and post-secondary educators expand their approaches to technology and inclusion, was one of 200 chosen by the Association of Texas Professional Educators to provide conference attendees with continuing professional education (CPE) credits.

GPS College Access Advisor and 2011 Ron Brown Captain, Candace Howze, spoke about the importance of providing African-American students with mentors, a representative community and access to knowledge.

“The college admissions process is stressful,” Candace explains. “During senior year, students are juggling demanding coursework, extracurriculars, athletics, and personal needs. For marginalized communities, these challenges are compounded by factors that create unique obstacles.

“Students who are low-income, live in rural towns or identify as racial minorities often face additional hurdles, such as part-time employment, housing and food insecurity, or undocumented status, yet with fewer resources to manage them.”

The GPS Program was launched in 2016 as an extension of the Ron Brown Scholar Program. As a tech-enabled organization, GPS provides free college counseling to African-American high school students and their families through the secure online platform known as Workplace.

Counseling takes the form of course planning, summer enrichment program referrals, essay editing, college list development, mock interviews, and financial aid support, to name a few. Since its inception, over 4,000 GPS students have successfully matriculated to nearly 800 colleges throughout the United States.

This work is particularly important because public school student spends just 38 minutes on average with their guidance counselor each year. Having access to a network of African American college students, alumni, professionals, and advisors means students have more direct support from individuals and more dedicated time to navigate the admissions process, in a culturally competent and affirming community.

“Our goal is always to collaborate with a student’s current support system to supplement, not supplant, the work of a student’s guidance counselor,” Candace says.

Building generous community virtually and connecting students to existing opportunity are just some of the ways that GPS is rethinking the approach to college access. Admissions can often feel isolating for African American students who reside in under-resourced areas or aspire to selective institutions. GPS assembles students with individuals from the Ron Brown – Ruth and Norman Rales Leaders Network who have walked similar paths and can offer students a vision of what’s possible, by connecting scholarship winners to applicants and creating peer mentor networks. Keeping youth engaged with older and younger classes is an effective resource that every educational community can tap into.

Most importantly, Candace notes the GPS Program has helped students achieve successful college outcomes by offering an uncommon sense of belief and affirmation. “The true magic exists in our community’s ability to see and pursue potential in each other.”

As GPS looks ahead into the upcoming school year, it welcomes the opportunity to partner with a range of non-profits, schools and educators, to achieve its goal of enrolling more African American high school students in the coming months.

GPS Student Demographics at a Glance:

- 93% matriculation rate
- 58% eligible for free or reduced lunch
- 24% first generation college students
- Average GPA 3.797 on a 4.0 scale
- 72% of GPS student identify as female and 25% identify as male
- 32% are first-generation Americans
- 4,301 students served to date
- Top 5 Colleges: Howard University, NC State University, New York University, Harvard College, University of Pennsylvania

*Patrick Baker, Board of Trustees and National Selection Committee*

*I love Selection Weekend. It’s one of my favorite weekends of the year. Arriving in DC, gathering with new and old RBS friends. The laughter, the joy, the life-changing stories; all capped off by the actual interviews with the next incoming class. It is a great privilege to be in the company of so many brilliant young minds. I will always be grateful to the Pilaro family and Mike Mallory for making me a part of the RBS family for life. As Chris Pilaro always said, “Peace&Love.”*
We are so proud of all 584 Ron Brown Scholars and want to highlight a few of the many who have recently received recognition for their dedication to leadership, service, and philanthropy in their communities.

Dr. Travis A. Gayles, MD PhD, RBS 1997, Chief Health Officer, Hazel Health received The American Medical Association (AMA) Award for Outstanding Government Service for his leadership. Inaugurated by the AMA in 1989, this awards program recognizes significant achievements by elected and career public servants in national, state and local governments. “As the top public health official in Montgomery County, MD during the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Gayles was tasked with leading some of the most challenging on-the-ground efforts of our time,” said AMA Board Chair Bobby Mukkamala, M.D. in the official press release.

Brandon Nicholson, PhD, RBS 2001, Executive Director, The Hidden Genius Project was recognized by Google.org Leaders to Watch 2022 as one of seven individuals from around the world who are driving real-world change in their communities and finding unexpected solutions to complex challenges across equity, education, health and sustainability. The Hidden Genius Project trains and mentors Black male youth in technology creation, entrepreneurship, and leadership skills to transform their lives and communities. Brandon’s efforts have helped hundreds of students throughout the Bay Area, Los Angeles, and beyond. The Hidden Genius Project was founded by five Black male entrepreneurs, including Ron Brown Scholars Jason Young, and Tracy “Ty” Moore.

Dr. Marjada Tucker, RBS 2014, on being matched in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Hope Jackson, RBS 2016 on being accepted into Bloomberg School at Johns Hopkins for their MPH program. Hope plans to focus her research on birth and reproductive health equity in the black community.

Dr. Josie Francois, RBS 2013, on being matched in Psychiatry at Bingham & Women’s Hospital in Boston

Haleigh Quinn, RBS 2018, on receiving the John Gardner Fellowship for Public Service. Founded in 1985 and jointly operated by Stanford University and University of California at Berkeley, six fellows are selected each year for a 10-month placement at a governmental agency or non-governmental organization. Haleigh will be in Washington, DC and is eager to explore a career in tenants’ rights advocacy, affordable housing development, and equitable urban planning.

Antavion “Tay” Moore, RBS 2020, attending Louisiana State University, studying political science and music, on being elected to the National 4-H Council Board of Trustees. Tay has been involved in Louisiana 4-H for ten years and is passionate about encouraging young people to become leaders in their communities through service.

Julian Manresa, RBS 2018, attending Yale University, on receiving the Paul Mellon Fellowship to study at Clare College, University of Cambridge, UK. The fellowship is awarded to two members of the Senior Class in Yale College, for the coming academic year and will fund Julian’s second BA with senior status at Cambridge. He will also begin to train for the Anglican priesthood during his time in the UK.

We are so proud of all 584 Ron Brown Scholars and want to highlight a few of the many who have recently received recognition for their dedication to leadership, service, and philanthropy in their communities.

Dr. Travis A. Gayles, MD PhD, RBS 1997, Chief Health Officer, Hazel Health received The American Medical Association (AMA) Award for Outstanding Government Service for his leadership. Inaugurated by the AMA in 1989, this awards program recognizes significant achievements by elected and career public servants in national, state and local governments. “As the top public health official in Montgomery County, MD during the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Gayles was tasked with leading some of the most challenging on-the-ground efforts of our time,” said AMA Board Chair Bobby Mukkamala, M.D. in the official press release.

Brandon Nicholson, PhD, RBS 2001, Executive Director, The Hidden Genius Project was recognized by Google.org Leaders to Watch 2022 as one of seven individuals from around the world who are driving real-world change in their communities and finding unexpected solutions to complex challenges across equity, education, health and sustainability. The Hidden Genius Project trains and mentors Black male youth in technology creation, entrepreneurship, and leadership skills to transform their lives and communities. Brandon’s efforts have helped hundreds of students throughout the Bay Area, Los Angeles, and beyond. The Hidden Genius Project was founded by five Black male entrepreneurs, including Ron Brown Scholars Jason Young, and Tracy “Ty” Moore.

Dr. Marjada Tucker, RBS 2014, on being matched in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Hope Jackson, RBS 2016 on being accepted into Bloomberg School at Johns Hopkins for their MPH program. Hope plans to focus her research on birth and reproductive health equity in the black community.

Dr. Josie Francois, RBS 2013, on being matched in Psychiatry at Bingham & Women’s Hospital in Boston

Haleigh Quinn, RBS 2018, on receiving the John Gardner Fellowship for Public Service. Founded in 1985 and jointly operated by Stanford University and University of California at Berkeley, six fellows are selected each year for a 10-month placement at a governmental agency or non-governmental organization. Haleigh will be in Washington, DC and is eager to explore a career in tenants’ rights advocacy, affordable housing development, and equitable urban planning.

Antavion “Tay” Moore, RBS 2020, attending Louisiana State University, studying political science and music, on being elected to the National 4-H Council Board of Trustees. Tay has been involved in Louisiana 4-H for ten years and is passionate about encouraging young people to become leaders in their communities through service.

Julian Manresa, RBS 2018, attending Yale University, on receiving the Paul Mellon Fellowship to study at Clare College, University of Cambridge, UK. The fellowship is awarded to two members of the Senior Class in Yale College, for the coming academic year and will fund Julian’s second BA with senior status at Cambridge. He will also begin to train for the Anglican priesthood during his time in the UK.

As I reflect on my time as an RBS Scholar and Alum, I am most grateful for the fact that the RBS community is a true family. No matter how long it has been since we last spoke, or if we had never met before, I experience a profound, genuine sense of connection with other Scholars and Alums. The RBS Scholars and Alums enable powerful conversations and collaborations, which have benefited me tremendously throughout my college career and life as a professional. I look forward to another phenomenal 25 years as a member of the RBS Family, and I am committed to mentoring and doing whatever I can to advance other Scholars and Alums to continue the legacy of Ron Brown. Happy Anniversary, Ron Brown Scholar Program!!
WAYS TO SUPPORT THE RON BROWN SCHOLAR PROGRAM

In 25 years, the Program has awarded over $21M in scholarships. That would not have been possible without friends like you and our corporate partners. With your help, the Program has grown to provide support services and resources to over 2,000 students annually - Scholars, Captains and GPS Navigators - through our three initiatives. We do our best every day to be good stewards of the trust you place in us to help make an extraordinary impact on the lives of these talented young people and our next generation of leaders.

As we continue to grow and support this community of intellectually gifted and public service-minded African American students, we hope you will consider extending your generosity once again. Below you will find a list of opportunities for your consideration - we appreciate every gift, no matter the size. A gift envelope is enclosed should you wish to make a donation, or you may donate online at www.ronbrown.org. Thank you.

**AmazonSmile**
We are an official organization recognized to participate in the Amazon Smile Charity Giving Program. Please designate the Ron Brown Scholar Fund as your favorite charity so that a portion of the purchases you make through Amazon (.05%) will be donated to the Program. There is no additional cost to you to do this.

**Emergency Funds/Donations & Monthly Gifts**
Visit www.ronbrown.org or send a check made payable to Ron Brown Scholar Fund and mail to:
485 Hillsdale Drive, Suite 206, Charlottesville, VA, 22901

**Scholarship Agreements**
Fully fund a $40,000 scholarship to support a Ron Brown Scholar. Option to pay $10,000 per year for 4 years. Please contact Michael Mallory mmallory@ronbrown.org or Anita Karadia akaradia@ronbrown.org.

**Host a virtual Fundraiser**
Please consider hosting a virtual fundraiser, or you may set up a fundraiser on social media to support the Ron Brown Scholar Program.

Donations Received by Designated Fund - 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships</td>
<td>$1,189,100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnerships</td>
<td>$817,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Donations</td>
<td>$746,514.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPS</td>
<td>$135,102.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency - Benevolent Fund</td>
<td>$52,175.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Matching Gifts**
Matching gifts are offered by many companies to encourage philanthropy giving amongst their employees. Please check with your company to learn if they participate in a matching gift program.

**Partnership Agreements**

- **Leaders Network Partnership**
  Consider joining the Ron Brown – Ruth and Norman Rales Leaders Network partners to help achieve your company’s diversity and inclusion goals. Please contact Holly Duke hduke@ronbrown.org.  

- **GPS Educational Partnerships**
  By partnering with GPS, you would enjoy access to the entire GPS community, comprised of 1,000+ high school juniors, seniors, and their parents, and advance your recruitment efforts. For more information contact Kiya Jones kjones@ronbrown.org or Randy Tripp, Jr. rtripp@ronbrown.org.

**Ron Brown Scholar Program**
485 Hillsdale Drive, Suite 206
Charlottesville, Virginia 22901
Phone 434-964-1588  Fax 434-964-1589
www.ronbrown.org