



American Heart Association®
Scholars Program

THE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

DAILY ITINERARY
SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLKIT
MEET YOUR FELLOW
SCHOLARS & AHA STAFF

CELEBRATING
10 YEARS
OF BOLD IMPACT

Class of 2025 - 2026



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Heart
Association.**

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April 15, 2026

Dear American Heart Association Scholars,

Congratulations on your successful completion of the American Heart Association Scholars Program! What an extraordinary moment in time to celebrate your milestone achievement as the Scholars Program marks its 10th anniversary.

Throughout your time in the program, you have expanded your horizons, made meaningful connections and contributed to a growing movement of changemakers in science, medicine and public health.

I applaud your deep commitment to serving your community and using your immense gifts to help people live longer, healthier lives.

As you step into the next phase of your journey, I encourage you to carry this experience with you.

Continue to ask bold questions. Seek out opportunities that challenge and inspire you. And remember that you are part of a powerful and expanding network that will continue to support and encourage you along the way.

I am infinitely proud of all that you have accomplished, and I look forward to a future shaped by innovative leaders just like you.

Thank you for your dedication to advancing health and hope for everyone, everywhere.

With heart,

Nancy Brown
Chief Executive Officer
American Heart Association

Alabama Heart Association Scholars



JaMya Jackson Sophomore biology major Lawson State Community College. Upon graduation, JaMya plans to attend the University of Alabama at Birmingham as a biology major on a pre- health track to prepare for physician assistant school.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, JaMya has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Andrea Gillis, MD** investigating the “Consequences of Delayed Diagnosis and Treatment in Primary Hyperparathyroidism”.



Jaylin Jones- A senior biology major at Miles College. Upon graduation, Jaylin plans to attend graduate school for environmental health and become an environmental scientist.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Jaylin has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Larrell Wilkinson, PhD** investigating the “Scoil Determinants of Health and Their Association Outcomes Among U.S. Adults: Evidence From the 2022 BRFSS”.



Jaylon Pearson- A senior biology major at Miles College. Upon graduation, Jaylon plans to attend graduate school, hopefully at The University of Alabama at Birmingham and become a physical therapist

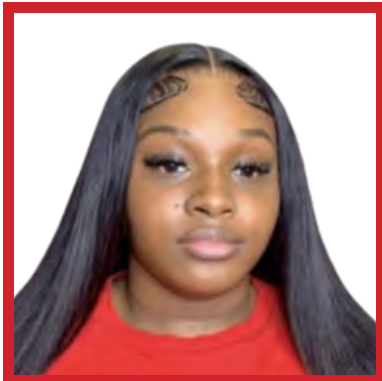
As an American Heart Association Scholar, Jaylon has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Larrell Wilkinson, PhD**, investigating “The Mobility Gap: Assessing the Association of Physical Limitations with Social and Economic Well-being”.

Alabama Heart Association Scholars



Jasmyn LeRoy - Junior psychology major Stillman College. Upon graduation, Jasmyn plans to go to graduate school and become an Organizational Management consultant.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Jasmyn has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Lilanta Joy Bradley, PhD** investigating "The Role of Doulas in Supporting Stress Reduction and Spirituality during Pregnancy and Postpartum".



Makya Pickens- A junior psychology major at Stillman College. Upon graduation, Makya plans to attend University of West Alabama and become a Clinical Psychiatrist.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Makya has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Shameka L. Cody, PhD** investigating "Examining Heavy Alcohol Use, Social Determinants of Health, and Possible Cognitive Decline among Older Adults in the United States: Findings from the 2022 BRFSS".



Mea Wilson- A sophomore nursing major at Tuskegee College. Upon graduation, Mea plans to go to graduate school and become a neonatal nurse practitioner.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Mea has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Angela Calderon, PhD** investigating the "Development of Angiogenesis Assay to Evaluate Botanical-Drug Interactions on Cardiovascular Injury".

Florida Heart Association Scholars



Kamille Buck- Junior pharmacy major Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. Upon graduation, Kamille plans to become a clinical pharmacist and independent pharmacy owner

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Kamille has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Sylvie Naar, PhD** investigating "Feedback on an Infographic Associated with Medication Adherence among Youth with HIV in the South".



Kiari Johnson- A junior environmental science major at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. Upon graduation, Kiari plans to attend medical school at Meharry Medical School and become an OB-GYN

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Kiari has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Karen MacDonnell, PhD** investigating "How does cannabis use relate to HIV self-management among adolescents and young adults".



Juliana Burunat- A junior biological sciences major at Florida International University. Upon graduation, Juliana plans to go to medical school.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Juliana has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Nan Hu, PhD** investigating "Clinical Characteristics and Molecular Abnormalities of DFSP Characterized in Pediatric Cancer Databases".

Florida Heart Association Scholars



Melanie Gonzalez- Sophomore dietetics and nutrition major Florida International University . Upon graduation, Melanie plans to attend medical school at the University of Miami and become a pediatrician.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Melanie has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Olatokunbo Osibogun, PhD** investigating .“Current E-Cigarette Use and Self-Reported Cardiovascular Disease Among U.S. Adults: A Sex-Stratified Cross-Sectional Analysis”.



Gabriella Sicre Vidal- A sophomore biology major at Miami Dade College Padron Campus. Upon graduation, Gabriella plans to attend medical school to complete an MD/MPH and become a general surgeon.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Gabriella has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Maria Monzon-Medina, PhD** investigating .“Empowering at-risk Communities through Blood Pressure Awareness”.



Paula Gaspar- A sophomore psychology major at Miami Dade College Padron Campus. Upon graduation, Paula plans to transfer out of state to become a clinical psychologist

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Paula has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Trinidad Arguelles, PhD** investigating .“Cardiovascular Risk Factors and Executive Function in Hispanic/Latino Adults: Evidence from a Systematic Literature Review”.

Florida Heart Association Scholars



Valery Pelaez- A junior psychology major at Miami Dade College Padron Campus. Upon graduation, Valery plans to attend medical school at Johns Hopkins University and become a neurosurgeon

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Valery has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Silvia Torices Del Val, PhD** investigating “The Role of Doulas in Supporting Stress Reduction and Spirituality during Pregnancy and Postpartum”.



Amanda Martinez-Luiz- A sophomore biology major at Miami Dade College West Doral Campus. Upon graduation, Amanda plans to attend graduate school to study biochemistry and become a researcher or scientist.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Amanda has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Dahis Manzanares, PhD** investigating “IL-6 Genetic Variants and Their Association With Type 2 Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease Risk”.



Marian Cuba Montero- A sophomore psychology major at Miami Dade College West Doral Campus. Upon graduation, Marian plans to pursue graduate studies intersecting the field of Psychology and gerontology, with a focus on research, advocacy, and activism

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Marian has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Trinidad Arguelles, PhD** investigating “Cortisol Dysregulation, Social Network Support, Dietary Acculturation, and Brain Aging in U.S. Hispanic/Latino Adults”.



American Heart Association
Scholars

Florida Heart Association Scholars



Pietro Fernandes- A sophomore psychology major at Miami Dade College West Doral Campus. Upon graduation, Pietro plans to attend dental school at Nova Southeastern University, where I will dedicate myself to helping others achieve health, confident smiles through compassionate care.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Pietro has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Priyanka Gudsoorkar, PhD** investigating "Periodontal Disease as an Inflammatory Bridge Between Diabetes, Smoking, and Myocardial Infarction".

Georgia Heart Association Scholars



Aris McCrary- A junior biology major at Clark Atlanta University. Upon graduation, Aris plans to attend Morehouse School of Medicine and become a radiologist

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Aris has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Randi N. Smith, PhD** investigating "Age-Dependent Toxicology Profiles Among Trauma Patients at a Level I Center".



Kaley Propst- A junior psychology major at Clark Atlanta University. Upon graduation, Kaley plans to attend medical school at Emory School of Medicine and become a psychiatrist.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Kaley has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Alvaro Alonso, PhD** investigating the "Association between Depression and Cardiovascular Disease".



Keala Johnson- A sophomore biology major at Clark Atlanta University. Upon graduation, Keala plans to attend Morehouse School of Medicine and become an anesthesiologist after completing her Masters degree.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Keala has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Priscilla Pemu, MD** investigating "Improving Lupus Self-Management Through Technology and Culturally Congruent Health Coaching".

Georgia Heart Association Scholars



Victoria Atkinson- A sophomore biology major Clark Atlanta University. Upon graduation, Victoria plans to attend medical school at Emory School of Medicine and become a pediatric doctor or dermatologist.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Victoria has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Dayna A Johnson, PhD** investigating “The Association Between Sleep and Blood Pressure and the Role of Discrimination in African American Adults”.



Jayden Reddins- A junior biology major at Morehouse College. Upon graduation, Jayden plans to join a respiratory therapist program and become a respiratory therapist.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Jayden has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Jamaji Nwanaji-Enwerem, MD, PhD** investigating “Electronic Discharge Practices and Patient Symptoms and Behaviors After Emergency Department Discharge”.



Kenyon Hurd- A junior biology major at Morehouse College. Upon graduation, Kenyon plans to attend Morehouse School of Medicine and become an anesthesiologist.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Kenyon has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Alvaro Alonso, PhD** investigating “Association Between Chronic Pain Frequency and Heart Disease Across Race and Gender”.

Georgia Heart Association Scholars



Landon Scott- Junior biology major at Morehouse College. Upon graduation, Landon plans to attend Meharry Medical College and become a surgeon specialized in general surgery

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Landon has worked under the mentorship of **Tennille Leak-Johnson**, investigating “DOCK2 in Type 2 Diabetes: An Ancestry-Informed Mechanistic Literature Review”.



Zackary Harris- A junior biology major at Morehouse College. Upon graduation, Zackary plans to attend dental school at Tufts University and matriculate to a residency program to become a certified pediatric dentist.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Zackary has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Jamaji Nwanaji-Enwerem, MD, PhD** investigating “Impact of Technology-Based Interventions on Patient Follow-Up After Emergency Department Discharge”.



Carlos Delgado- A junior biology major at Paine College. Upon graduation, Carlos plans to attend a Doctor of Physical Therapy program at either NSU in Florida or Augusta University while also pursuing the opportunity to be selected by a professional baseball team

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Carlos has worked under the mentorship of **Karen A. Johnson** investigating “The Impact of Pruning the Root: A Trauma-Informed, Family-Centered Shift in Criminal Legal System Practice”.

Georgia Heart Association Scholars



Brianna Fletcher- Sophomore health science major Spelman College. Upon graduation, Brianna plans to attend medical school and become a Cardiothoracic Surgeon

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Brianna has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Arshed Quyyumi, MD** investigating “Neighborhood Social Vulnerability, Social Cohesion, and Subclinical Atherosclerosis in Black Women”.



Emma Smith- A sophomore biology major at Spelman College. Upon graduation, Emma plans to become a CRNA

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Emma has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Justin Kramer, PhD** investigating “Barriers and Opportunities in Hypertension Management: Exploring Patient Experiences with Blood Pressure Telemonitoring”.



Jardyn Augustus- A junior health science major at Spelman College. Upon graduation, Jardyn plans to attend dental school and specialize in periodontics to help patients prevent and treat gum disease while promoting long-term gum health

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Jardyn has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Karen A. Johnson, PhD** investigating “Social and Structural Determinants of Health and Healthcare Access in a Family Diversion Program”

Georgia Heart Association Scholars



Kristen Watts- A junior health science major at Spelman College. Upon graduation, Kristen plans to obtain her Master of Science degree then matriculate to medical school to become an obstetrician and gynecologist

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Kristen has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Priscilla Pemu, MD** investigating “Depression Outcomes in Lupus Following a Chronic Disease Self-Management Program”.

Louisiana Heart Association Scholars



Autumn Jeffries- A junior public health major Dillard University. Upon graduation, Autumn plans to attend graduate school to pursue an MPH with the goal of working in Global Health and Healthcare advocacy.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Autumn has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Kevin Zvezdaryk, PhD** investigating "Mapping of Dysfunctional Neuronal Cells using scRNA-Seq".



Chloe Stewart- A junior public health major at Dillard University. Upon graduation, Chloe plans to attend a dual degree program in order to get my MPH and PhD in Public Health to become an expert in community health

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Chloe has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Prasad V.G. Katakam, MD, PhD** investigating "Impact of Type 1 Diabetes on Energetics of Female Mouse Brain Microvessels".



Jaci Fortenberry- A junior nursing major at Southern University. Upon graduation, Jaci plans to Become an ICU nurse and later attend school to become a CRNA.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Jaci has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Miranda Mitchell, MD PhD** investigating "Examining Clinical and Lifestyle Predictors of Hospital Readmission Among Adults with Systolic Heart Failure at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center".

Louisiana Heart Association Scholars



Janiyah Miller- A junior biology major at Southern University. Upon graduation, Janiyah plans to take a gap year and gain more opportunities before applying to medical school.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Janiyah has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Robert Newton Jr., PhD**, investigating “The Correlation Between Cortical Gray Matter Volume and Executive Function/ Episodic Memory in African Americans”.



Micah Davis- A sophomore public health sciences major at Xavier University. Upon graduation, Micah plans to attend a dental school of her choice to become a general dentist or to specialize.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Micah has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Ileana De Anda-Duran, MD, MPH**, investigating “Home is Where the Heart is: Childhood Experiences and Differences in Cardiovascular risk “



Orion Fears- A sophomore biology major at Xavier University. Upon graduation, Orion plans to attend medical school and become a plastic surgeon.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Orion has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Prasad V.G. Katakam, MD, PhD**, investigating .”

Mississippi Heart Association Scholars



Jada Lusk- A senior biology major at Jackson State University. Upon graduation, Jada plans to attend an anesthesiologist assistant program.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Jada has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Marinelle Payton, MD, PhD, MS, MPH** investigating "Socioeconomic Status and Coronary Artery Disease".



Justin McNairy- A senior public health major at Jackson State University. Upon graduation, Justin plans to attend graduate school to earn his Master's in Public Health.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Justin has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Clifton Addison, PhD** investigating "The Effects of Cardiovascular Disease on Group Meaning and Health Disparities"



Trinity Hunter- A junior public health major at Jackson State University. Upon graduation, Trinity plans to attend Georgia State University to become a registered dietician.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Trinity has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Lorena Amaral, PhD** investigating "Progesterone Induced Blocking Factor Improves Maternal Blood Pressure and Inflammation in the Dahl Salt-Sensitive Rat Model of Preeclampsia".

Mississippi Heart Association Scholars



Andrew Bowens- A sophomore biology major at Tougaloo College. Upon graduation, Andrew plans to attend medical school at Meharry Medical college and become a dermatologist.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Andrew has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Marinelle Payton, MD, PhD, MS, MPH** investigating “Common Dermatologic Conditions May Indicate Early Cardiovascular Risk Among Undergraduate Students”.



Kiersten Burk- A senior biology major at Tougaloo College. Upon graduation, Kiersten plans to attend Mississippi State University and become a pediatric Nurse practitioner.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Kiersten has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Clifton Addison, PhD** investigating “Evaluating the Effectiveness of Immunosuppressive Therapies on Patients with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus”.



Xaelen Maxwell- A junior biology major at Tougaloo College. Upon graduation, Xaelen plans to attend medical school at Meharry medical college and become a general surgeon.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Xaelen has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Junie Paula Warrington, PhD** investigating “Effects of Reduced Acid-Sensing Ion Channel 2a on Seizure-Induced Cerebral Hyperemia and Baseline Perfusion in Non-Pregnant Female Mice”.

North Carolina Heart Association Scholars



Eryn Yarrell- A senior biology major (pre-medicine track) North Carolina A&T University. Upon graduation, Eryn plans to become an internist and medical anthropologist dedicated to improving community health by exploring how culture and environment shape equitable care surgeon.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Eryn has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Jaclyn P. Maher, PhD** investigating “Examining Bidirectional Relations Between Emotional Experiences and Sleep in Emerging Adults”.



Jor'Dan Whitt- A senior kinesiology major at North Carolina A&T University. Upon graduation, Jor'Dan plans to become an interventional cardiologist and pursue a master's in public health to conduct clinical research in marginalized communities, examining the social, economic, and environmental factors that contribute to the development of cardiovascular diseases.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Jor'Dan has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Jennifer Etnier, PhD** investigating “



Justin Fraser- A junior biology major at North Carolina A&T University. Upon graduation, Justin plans to gain experience as an EMT and with research, then pursue his master's in biomedical sciences at Duke University.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Justin has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Li Quan, PhD** investigating the “Effect of Mef2c-Ascl1 Complex on iCM Reprogramming”.

North Carolina Heart Association Scholars



Myla Hudson- A senior biology major at North Carolina A&T University. Upon graduation, Myla plans to attend MD-PhD school and become an oncologist.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Myla has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Li Quan, PhD** investigating "Effect of ATF7 Knockdown on Cardiac Reprogramming Efficiency and Cardiomyocyte Marker Expression"



Chrishaya Gilliam- A senior biology major at Winston-Salem State University. Upon graduation, Chrishaya plans to focus her studies within a lab setting by diving into histopathology.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Chrishaya has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Yashashwi Pokharel, MD, MSCR**, investigating "Redefining the Standard: Improving Black/African American Health Outcomes Outside the Hospital with HOPE-BP"



Jayla Serret- A sophomore chemistry major at Winston-Salem State University. Upon graduation, Jayla plans to attend Marshall University or Sam Houston State University and get her master's in forensic science.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Jayla has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. TanYa Gwathney-Williams, PhD** investigating "Examining Faith-Based Interventions to Reduce Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and Cardiovascular Risk Among Underserved Communities"

North Carolina Heart Association Scholars



Keren Kasongo- A junior exercise science major Winston-Salem State University. Upon graduation, Keren plans to attend Winston Salem State University DPT program to become a pediatric physical therapist or attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's School of Education graduate program to become an Anatomy and Physiology professor at Winston Salem State University.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Keren has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Shawnta L. Lloyd, PhD** investigating "Engaging Black Men as Research Partners: Perspectives on Clinical Comparative Research"



Nevaeh Ilderton- A sophomore biology major at Winston-Salem State University. Upon graduation, Nevaeh plans to become a dental hygienist, then go to dental school and become a dentist.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Nevaeh has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Justin B. Moore, PhD, MS**, investigating "The Associations Between BMI and Dietary Behaviors Among Patients Enrolled in a Weight Management Program"

Puerto Rico Heart Association Scholars



Paola Del Mar Torres Cruz- A senior toxicology major at Inter-American University Aguadilla campus. Upon graduation, Paola plans to apply to medical school to be admitted for August 2027.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Paola has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Elizabeth Padilla-Crespo, PhD** investigating “Rhizosphere Microbial Health as a determinant of Food Security”.



Adrian O. Perez Gonzalez- A junior biology major with an emphasis on biomedicine at the University of Puerto Rico Aguadilla Campus. Upon graduation, Adrian plans to attend one of Puerto Rico's Medical Schools to become a family physician;. Adrian is also considering a master's degree in bioengineering.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Adrian has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Keishla < Rodriguez-Martir PhD**, investigating “Avocado (*Persea americana*) Extracts as Natural Antibacterial Agents Against Gram-Positive and Gram-Negative Bacteria”.

Tennessee Heart Association Scholars



Cherish Uwandu- A junior biochemistry major at Fisk University. Upon graduation, Cherish plans to take two gap years to conduct research and apply for physician-scientist training programs.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Cherish has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Evangeline Motley, PhD** investigating “The Role of Protease-Activated Receptors in Vascular Smooth Muscle Cell Migration”.



Brianna LeSure- A sophomore biology major at LeMoyne-Owen College. Upon graduation, Brianna plans to attend nursing school and pursue a career as a Labor and Delivery Nurse. Later, she plans to attend Meharry Medical School.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Brianna has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Junwang Xu, PhD**, investigating “Matters of the Heart: Cardiovascular Health Awareness Among Black Female College Students”.



Phazsa Harris- A sophomore biology major at LeMoyne-Owen College. Upon graduation, Phazsa plans to attend medical school at the University of Tennessee.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Phazsa has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Ioannis Dragatsis, PhD** investigating “A Comparative Analysis of Targeted Drug Repurposing for Cardiac Instabilities in Familial Dysautonomia”.

Tennessee Heart Association Scholars



Tahj Williams- A junior biology major at LeMoyne Owen College. Upon graduation, Tahj plans to attend dental school.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Tahj has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Zheng Fan, PhD** investigating “Structural and Functional Mechanisms of Cardiac Sodium Channels (Nav1.5) in Health and Disease”.



Asia Potts- A senior psychology major at Tennessee State University. Upon graduation, Asia plans to attend nursing school at the college Galen School of Nursing in Nashville to become a pediatric nurse.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Asia has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Vien Turong, MD, MSCR**, investigating “Prognostic Utility of Left Atrial Strain for Predicting Clinical Outcomes in Cardiac Amyloidosis: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis”.



Dashia Bostick- A senior biology major at Tennessee State University. Upon graduation, Dashia plans to attend Medical school at Vanderbilt school of medicine.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Dashia has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Antenor O. Hinton Jr., PhD** investigating “Mitochondrial Dysfunction as a Driver of Heart Failure: Insights from Cellular and Systems Biology”.

Tennessee Heart Association Scholars



Simone' Simmons- A senior biology major on a pre-medicine track at Tennessee State University. Upon graduation, Simone' plans to take a gap year to prepare her application for medical school and start medical school during the 2027 cycle .

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Simone' has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Elaine Shelton, PhD** investigating "The Effects of Commonly Administered Antiarrhythmic and Antihypertensive Drugs on the Ductus Arteriosus".



Tamyia Franklin- A senior biology major at Tennessee State University. Upon graduation, Tamyia plans to take a gap year then attend dental school at Meharry School of Dentistry or Howard University School of Dentistry.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Tamyia has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Mulubrhan Mogos, PhD, MSc**, investigating "Periodontitis During Delivery Hospitalizations and Maternal Outcomes: A Nationwide Inpatient Sample Analysis, 2016–2022".



ZaNeah Lee- A sophomore biology major at Tennessee State University. Upon graduation, ZaNeah plans to attend Morehouse School of Medicine to receive her doctorate and become a pediatrician.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, ZaNeah has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Danielle Dean, PhD** investigating the "Effects of Dietary Protein on the Liver-Alpha Cell Axis and Alpha Cell Proliferation".

Texas Heart Association Scholars



Ashley Espinoza- A junior biology major at the University of Houston Downtown. Upon graduation, Ashley plans to apply to medical school at the University of Houston and pursue a career in primary care.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Ashely has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Na Li , PhD** investigating “Gasdermin D-Induced Mitochondrial Dysfunction Promotes Atrial Fibrillation”



Yuliana Santos Ventura- A junior biology major at the University of Houston Downtown. Upon graduation, Yuliana plans to attend medical school at Baylor College of Medicine and become either a radiologist or a cardiothoracic surgeon.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Yuliana has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Adriana Visbal, PhD**, investigating .”



Zara Usman- A junior biology major at the University of Houston Downtown. Upon graduation, Zara plans to attend medical school in Texas and pursue residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in cardiology.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Zara has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Rosenda Murillo , PhD** investigating “Latinos that Engage in Higher Occupational Physical Activity are Less Likely to Engage in High Sedentary Activity”.

Texas Heart Association Scholars



Ameerah Lawal- A sophomore public health major at the University of Texas in Austin. Upon graduation, Ameerah plans to attend dental school.

As an American Heart Association Scholar, Ameerah has worked under the mentorship of **Dr. Laura Quinones Camacho, PhD** investigating "Moderating Effects of Cognitive Flexibility on Relationships Between Childhood Anxiety Symptoms and Maladaptive Emotion Regulation Strategies".

**WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE
THIS WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT!**



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YOUR AHA TEAM ON THE GROUND



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American Heart Association®
Scholars Program

CONGRATULATIONS
Class of 2025 - 2026

CELEBRATING
10 YEARS
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Scholars Program

Visit our website for more information on the program and how you can get involved.

